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Hafa Adai!

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Torres wants $1.2M increase in DPS budget

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

21st Department of Public Safety's Police Cycle valedictorian Sasha Marie Basa Pangelinan poses with her mother, police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan, and her grandmother, Teresita Basa Pertudo.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» As 29 new cops join police force

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres wants to increase the overall budget for the Department of Public Safety by $1.2 million.

He made the announcement as he congratulated the 29 new police officers and three other new officers from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife Division and Quarantine Division, and Office of the Public Auditor, during a graduation ceremony yesterday at Saipan

See TORRES on Page 4

BOE to announce education commissioner vacancy

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

» Muna being considered for acting COE

The CNMI Public School System's Board of Education plans to announce the vacancy of Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan's position as she reaffirmed her decision to retire last week.

In a special board meeting yesterday at the Office of Pupil Transportation, BOE chair Herman Guerrero announced that Sablan is set to leave office on Aug. 19, 2016, which is also the week PSS begins its school year.

The board was expected to release the results of Sablan's evaluation, but with her recent decision to retire, Guerrero said that she has

See BOE on Page 4

AS TODAY MARKS SOUDELOR ANNIVERSARY

'Soudelor tested community's resiliency'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Typhoon Soudelor has tested the resiliency of members of the island community. A year after one of the strongest typhoons that hit the CNMI, he added, Saipan will continue to move forward.

"We would never forget that fateful night when Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan. Everything that we've taken for granted became a necessity for us all," said Torres in yesterday's proclamation signing declaring Aug.1 to 6 as Typhoon Soudelor Commemoration Week.

"The resiliency of our people had been tested and we continue to face difficulties but we will continue to move forward."

Torres added that he applauded the efforts shown by various individuals and groups in helping those who are in need when Soudelor

See SOUDELOR on Page 4

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, joins members of the various agencies and organizations that helped the community with its recovery efforts after Typhoon Soudelor in yesterday's proclamation signing declaring Aug. 1 to 6 as Typhoon Soudelor Commemoration Week yesterday at the Governor's Office conference room.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said the yearly visits made by two Japanese groups would be a big help in attracting back one of the CNMI's biggest tourism markets.

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ASIA

China's ambitions to become a pioneer in nuclear energy are sailing into troubled waters.

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OVERDRIVE

Ford Motor Co. has added another plug-in hybrid passenger car to its growing fleet of alternative fuel vehicles.

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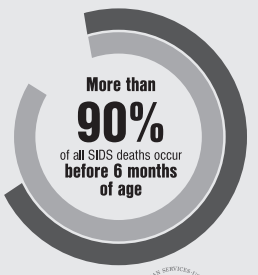
Source: Technical Report of the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome



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Local

GOP to focus on tourism, jobs, other industries

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth left, joins other Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association candidates and some supporters in last Sunday's kickoff rally at the Susupe Beach Park.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association said job creation, tourism, and exploring other industries in the CNMI will be part of their candidates' campaign platforms in this year's general elections. The local GOP party held a kickoff rally last Sunday at the Susupe Beach Park.

Job creation, tourism, and exploring other industries is part of the GOP's nine-point agenda that will be advanced by re-electionists Senate President Francisco Borja and Sen. Sixto Igisomar, House Speaker Rafael Demapan, vice speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, floor leader George Camacho, and Reps. Angel Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero, Anthony Sablan, and Tinian's Edwin Aldan.

Former Reps. Janet Maratita and Antonio Agulto are trying to make a return to the House, while press secretary Ivan Blanco, Veterans Affairs director Gregorio Sablan Jr., Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council vice chair Alice Igitol, Frank Aguon, and Donald Barcinas are hoping to win seats for their respective precincts.

Local GOP spokesperson Blanco said the Republican Party agreed to focus on the nine-point agenda if given the chance that they retake the CNMI Legislature.

Job creation by expanding employment opportunities for the local people is on top of the GOP's platform followed by restoring the 25 percent cut made in the retirement pension and payment of interest to former defined benefit members that withdrew their respective retirement contributions.

See GOP on Page 4

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CUC acting executive director says there was no search, raid at Riegel's office

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There was no search or raid at the office of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chief engineer John Riegel last Wednesday, according to CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho.

In an interview on Friday, Camacho said Riegel was on leave and that a couple of engineers needed some information on some diagrams and so forth for projects that were tasked for them to do.

Camacho said he was on a CUC business trip on Tinian at that time, but that he learned that some of the needed information was in Riegel's office and the engineers were required to get it. "That's the reason. We did that in the morning in front of everyone, the whole [CUC] staff," he explained.

Citing multiple sources, *Saipan Tribune* reported on Thursday that top CUC management officials forcibly opened Riegel's office last Wednesday.

Saipan Tribune sources said Riegel's computer and hard drive were some of the items taken out of his office and that a locksmith was used to get into the office.

But Camacho said the staff that went inside Riegel's office was with acting chief engineer Robert Malate, who was designated by Riegel.

"We just want to be upfront when they needed information to assist us and develop as we more forward," Camacho said.

The acting executive director said there was no key so they called a locksmith.

"There was no breaking doors in and damaging property. No. There was a locksmith who came in," Camacho said.

CUC recently filed a lawsuit against Riegel over his amendment of contract that would extend the term of his contract, increase his annual salary, and could not be terminated for cause.

CUC, through counsel James Sirok, is suing Riegel in the Superior Court for invalid provisions of contract.

Sirok asked the court to hold a conciliatory session to resolve the issue of the legality of the amendment provisions complained.

Sirok moved the court to declare that the amendment provisions complained are invalid and not enforceable against CUC.

2nd Annual Humanities Film Festival kicks off today

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council's 2nd Annual Humanities Film Festival starts today with the theme "Our Community's Resiliency."

The film festival, dubbed "Soudelor and the Winds of Change in the CNMI," will have the following schedule:

■ Aug. 2 at Grandvrio Resort, 6-8pm

■ Aug. 3 at Kagman High School cafeteria, 6pm

■ Aug. 4 at Hopwood Jr. High School cafeteria, 6pm

The following films will be showed:

■ *Soudelor Saipan Strong* by Sveta Hunter

■ *C.O.R.E HEAL SAIPAN* by Glen Hunter

■ *Blown Away* by Enhao Feng, Tianbo Zhang, and Beibei Chen

■ *Typhoon Soudelor, The documentary* by Jerico Montenejo and Casey Huliganga

■ *Saipan Strong* by Jobelle Tabuena

■ *Saipan and the gales of Typhoon Soudelor* by Angela Felici M. Cruz

Awarding for the winning movie will be at Garapan Fishing Base on Aug. 6, Saturday.

This event is free and open to the public. ***(Mackenzie Perez)***

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Suspected 'ice' dealer re-arrested, man also arrested for throwing 'ice' outside the car

Drug Enforcement Task Force re-arrested a suspected dealer of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" and a man for possession of "ice" along a narrow road leading to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Water Treatment and Laboratory Office in Puerto Rico on Friday morning.

Jameson Palacios Hemley, 43, was arrested after the Office of the Attorney General moved to revoke stipulation for release from custody.

Yiwu Li, 43, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance after he allegedly threw out from his car a tissue paper containing a baggie of 1.3 gross grams of "ice."

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $30,000 cash bail on Hemley.

A $20,000 cash bail was initially imposed on Li.

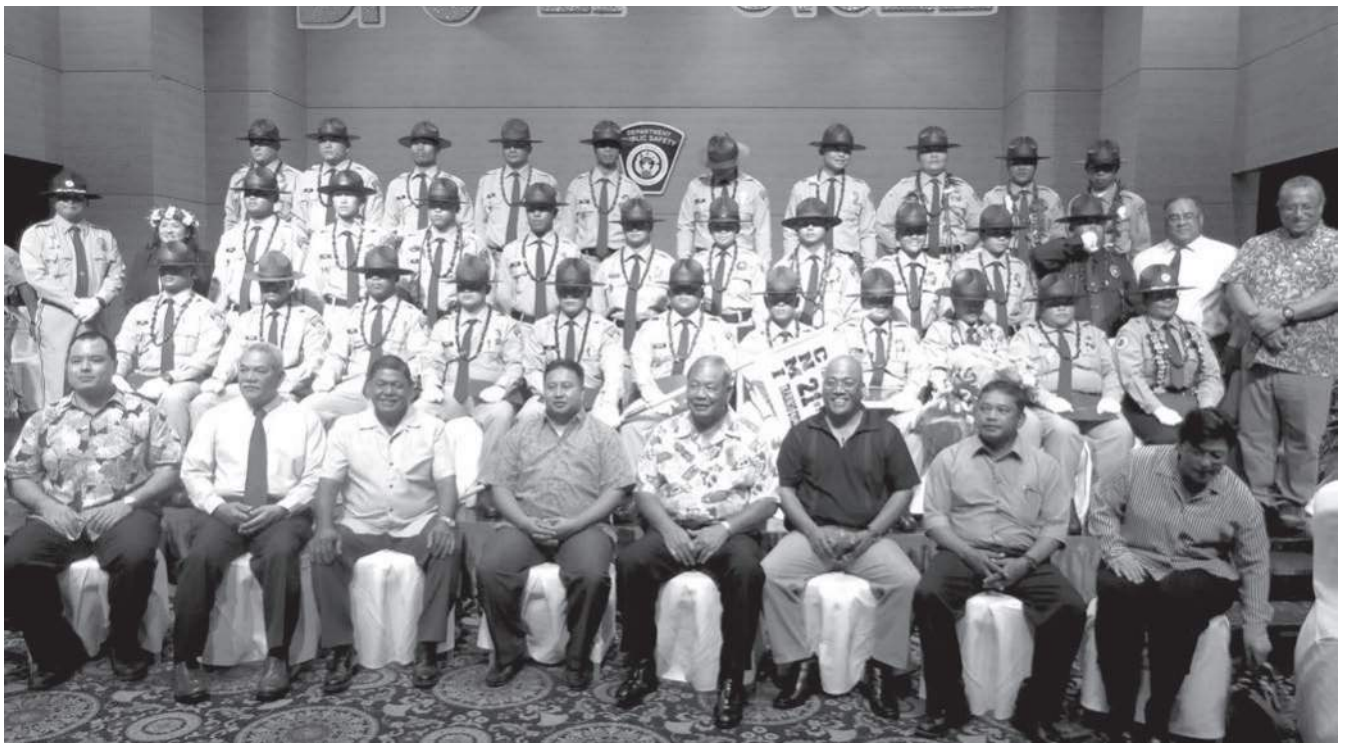
According to court records, Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Hemley last April 28 for illegal possession and trafficking of "ice."

Hemley was subsequently released after he signed an agreement with DETF to cooperate with their investigation against illegal drugs.

DETF then moved to revoke Hemley's release after he allegedly has not cooperated with the ongoing investigations.

DETF agent Roque K. Camacho said they spotted Hemley on Friday morning in Puerto Rico.

Camacho said while they served the arrest warrant to Hemley, they also noticed Li, who was in a separate tinted car, threw a tissue containing "ice." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog along with other government officials pose for a group photo with the graduates of the 21st Department of Public Safety's Police Cycle yesterday at Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

TORRES

From Page 1

World Resort's Taga Hall.

Sasha Marie Basa Pangelinan was named the valedictorian for the 21st DPS Police Cycle, while Elton Josh Blas Castro emerged as the salutatorian.

Iris Kay John Rangamar was the top gun. Felix Mendiola Hocog was the physical fitness awardee, while Janry Atalig Santos received the governor leader's award.

Joseph Taisacan Barcinas II and Athan Simeon Odoshi Taisague received the perfect attendance award.

Class valedictorian Pangelinan said she feels very honored receiving the award.

"I sacrificed everything I had. I always do and I put all I had into this academy," said the 26-year-old daughter of Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan.

Pangelinan described the training as "19 weeks of hell."

"I plan to marry DPS," said Pangelinan when asked about her plans.

Salutatorian Castro is the son of Willihardo A. Castro and Leonora A. Blas.

In his remarks, Torres said they have to do more to encourage a vibrant economy that allows businesses to pay a living wage that alleviates stress among the citizens who are struggling to live paycheck to paycheck.

Torres disclosed that he is working with Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) to increase the local minimum wage to the federal level of $7.25 this year so that the people can have greater resources to build a better life.

"I have pushed for greater economic growth that has already seen more people employed for higher wages," he said.

The governor said more and more people get into the workforce and out of social services.

He said more businesses hiring locals are finding opportunities on the islands.

Torres noted that the use and abuse of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" still runs rampant throughout the community.

Torres said violence also remains a problem for many families.

The governor said it is not enough to simply arrest drug users and dealers.

"We have to treat the underlying causes of this behavior," he said.

Torres committed $1 million in his budget proposal to establishing a substance abuse treatment center to go alongside the newly established drug court.

Torres said he also asked the Legislature to provide an additional $1 million from the casino gross revenue tax this year to the Community Guidance Center to work toward treating this illness immediately.

"When we stop the urge to use, we can put a stop to petty theft, abuse, and violence that arises from addiction," the governor said.

Torres said he worked toward increasing the overall budget for DPS by $1.2 million in his proposed budget to the Legislature along with more positions to increase DPS' total force.

"I will continue to advocate for more funding to ensure that you continue to protect our people's security without worrying about the financial security of your families," Torres told DPS officers.

DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero, in an interview said for the interim, the 22 new Saipan police officers are going to be assigned to patrol section.

"That's where they get into the system, learn actual fieldwork, police work and then from there they go up to specialized unit," Guerrero said.

He said the seven new police officers, who are from Rota, will go back to Rota DPS today, Tuesday.

The commissioner said the training was long and hard for the cadets.

"I think everybody got together as one. They understood how to work together as a team and they put together as you can see," Guerrero said.

BOE

From Page 1

moved her name from consideration.

"Consequently, the previous meeting is moot and we will now proceed to announce the position and hire a commissioner…" he added.

The term of the commissioner of education usually lasts four years. Sablan, whose career with PSS spans over two decades, assumed office in 2009.

The board also decided to review the job vacancy announcement to ensure that it aligns with the BOE's mission and philosophy.

Guerrero also recommended that the associate commissioner for Administrative Services, Glen Muna, be appointed as the interim education commissioner. The proposal was moved to be considered in an executive session with board members later.

Since the news of Sablan's resignation broke, several education officials have come forward asking the commissioner to withdraw her intent to retire and for the board not to accept her resignation. The commissioner did not comment on the situation while the board discussed her departure.

SOUDELOR

From Page 1

was ravaging the island and after the devastation.

"All the organizations, individuals, government agencies, and other groups have worked together after the typhoon and are still doing so up to now with the recovery efforts. Disaster preparedness must also be our priority."

The American Red Cross, the Crisis Counseling Program, Department of Corrections, Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, Bridge Capital, Military Veterans Affairs Office and Department of Defense, the Legislature, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Public School System, CNMI Homeland Security, Northern Marianas College, Department of Public Lands, Governor's Office, Department of Public Works, Department of Commerce, United 4 Saipan, Community Outreach Recovery Efforts, and Women's Affairs are some of the agencies and groups that are under the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts.

"We are exerting more effort in terms of recovery and help those families who still need assistance. A lot of folks needed help back then. There are still some who are not visible but they are still there," said Torres.

Torres added that the CNMI Chapter of the American Red Cross was the lead agency that has been disbursing all donations given by various groups, here and overseas. "They had done a tremendous job. We must also recognize CARE and the assistance provided by [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] to our community."

CARE director Jenny Hegland said CARE was the result of the collaboration of a lot of individuals. "Agencies, groups, and organizations come together to work for the recovery efforts. We look forward to continue to meet the needs of the people. What we are looking forward to now is how far we've come since the typhoon."

A sunrise vigil to be attended by CARE member organizations and faith-based groups was held at 5am this morning with watching the sunrise a symbol of having another day and survival after Soudelor. A film showing will also begin tonight from 6pm to 8pm at the Grandvrio Hotel. CARE lined up other events for the whole week.

GOP

From Page 2

Aiming to reduce the utility costs, land compensation, medical referral, scholarships, and tourism enhancement programs, are also on their agenda as well as exploring alternative industries like casino gaming operations, strengthening the agriculture and fisheries sectors, and the submerged land mineral exploration.

Expanding the training of the local CNMI workforce, improving the government's social programs, and providing miscellaneous programs and services to improve the standard of living of all citizens of the Commonwealth are also part of the local GOP's platform.

Blanco will be taking a leave from his duties as press secretary once the Commonwealth Election Commission certifies his candidacy. He, however, will remain as the local GOP's spokesperson.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he was pleased to see the incredible turnout in last Sunday's kickoff rally. "This shows the strength and momentum of the party and most especially the people's faith in the party's platform that we are actually delivering what we set out to do since we took office."

"And, we continue to welcome everyone to join the Republican Party based on the platform and the solutions for long standing issues and challenges in our islands," added Torres.

Torres, who led the CNMI's local GOP delegation to last month's Republican National Convention, said the national committee had already learned of the concerns by the territories as evident on adopting some issues.

"It is a totally different atmosphere from the local campaign here but the national committee is now aware of the needs of the territories. They have acknowledged and accepted our policies for the insular areas," said Torres.

Appointing a Special Assistant to the President that would be the direct representative of the territories to the White House was part of the platform adopted by the national GOP.

All five territories—American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—introduced it with amendment.

CUC projects contractor: Telling CW-1 workers to leave by 2019 'horrible thing'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A contractor for many Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects has stated that without CW-1 workers they could not make projects in the CNMI and that telling them to leave by 2019 is "a horrible thing."

Tano Group's Robert Bracken in an interview said they could not be able to do projects with CUC and other agencies in the CNMI without the CW-1 workers.

» Tano Group's Bracken says without CW-1 workers they could not make projects in CNMI

"That is our skilled labor force. Those are the welders, those are the feeders, those are the guys that know how to work…" Bracken said.

In his remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for CUC pipeline and Tank 102 replacement projects on Friday, Bracken expressed his strong support to CUC's efforts to keep its CW-1 workers.

Bracken said he was talking earlier with CUC counsel James Sirok about CUC's foreign workers workforce.

"It's such a shame to even think about losing some of our skilled workers," he said.

Bracken said their company and their foreign workers have been working with CUC for 20 years or over now.

He noted that CUC has a great team and has such a really good workforce.

"2019, guys show is over. You can't stay anymore. For me, that's a horrible thing," Bracken said, referring to the CW-1 program that is scheduled to end on Dec. 31, 2019.

He said he is hoping that "we can give something" to allow these CW-1 workers to stay in the CNMI and be productive.

In an interview, Bracken disclosed that in the pipeline and Tank 102 projects, their company's 23 active CW-1 workers and an average of 22 locals were involved.

Bracken said it took them six months to build the tank and more than six months to work with the pipeline project.

Tano Group is the subcontractor for the pipeline project and the general contractor for the Tank 102.

Bracken said their CW-1 workers are all from the Philippines, who have been working for the company for probably an average of 18 years and some of them for more than 20 years.

He said all of their CW-1 workers will be affected come 2019 in one way or another.

This year, Bracken said, they have been fortunate to not have issues with their petitions for CW-1 permits.

He said they followed the suggestions and applied six months prior.

Bracken said among of their CW-1 workers are project engineers.

For Tano Group, Bracken said, they do business regionally in the Pacific so their home base is Saipan.

He said they chose Saipan as their home base because of the immigration rules and regulations that preceded the CW-1 program, or the federal taking over CNM immigration.

Bracken said the guest workers program back then would allow their workers easy travel throughout Micronesia.

He said Tano Group has done projects in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Palau, or wherever Mobil Oil has a facility.

"Come 2019 we hope that something happens. It doesn't look good right now," Bracken pointed out.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Tano Group's Robert Bracken speaks during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s pipeline and Tank 102 replacement projects at CUC Power Plant in Lower Base on Friday afternoon.

MVA looking into new markets

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority hopes to further expand the CNMI's tourism market with the help of 10 overseas offices that have a marketing team of 37 people. Hong Kong and the Philippines are two of the new markets, while the MVA has also been aggressive with its promotions in Chinese-Taipei.

The MVA's Hong Kong office opened last June with Samantha Lau as director and had worked directly with the successful launch of Hong Kong Airlines' inaugural non-stop flight to Saipan last July 8. Mary Joan Cabrera Boongaling is HK Air's Saipan Station Airport Services supervisor.

HK Air flies twice a week from Chek Lap Kok International Airport to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport every Wednesday and Sunday at 5:30pm (Hong Kong time), and Monday and Thursday at 2am (Saipan Time).

Lau is also working with Hong Kong Express and it is expected to fly direct to Saipan later this year or in early 2017, depending on the approval of their application from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Transportation Security Administration.

HK Express is HK Air's sister airline that offers low cost fares with seat prices for a roundtrip ticket from Japan to Hong Kong at $200. They plan to have non-stop flights to Saipan originating from Japan's secondary cities and have a 180-seater Airbus A320.

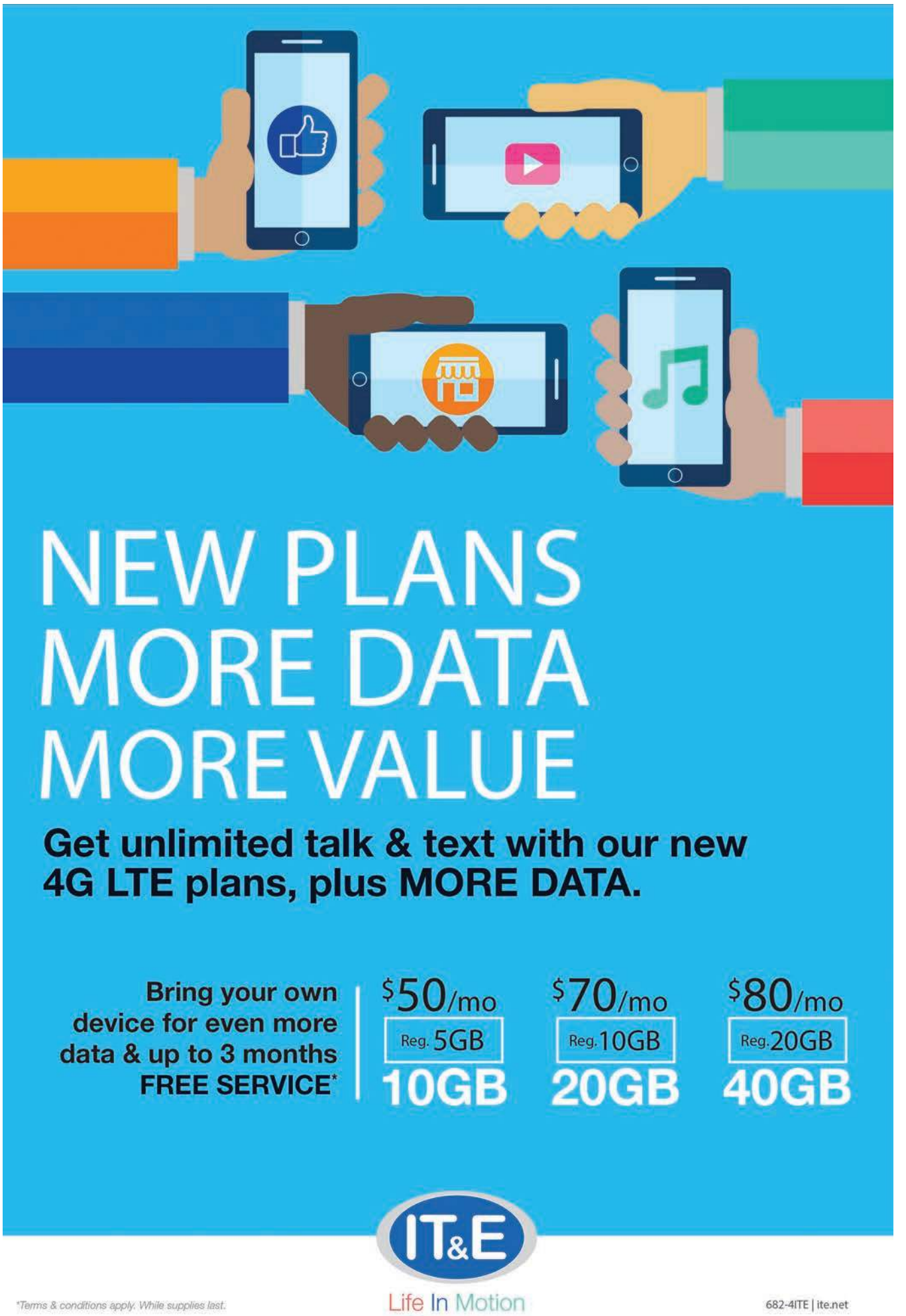
The MVA also wanted the CNMI's presence felt in the Philippines and opened its Manila office last April. They want to capitalize on PAL Express' new non-stop flights that began last June 16.

PAL Express' 156-seater Airbus A320 flies twice a week from Manila to Saipan every Wednesdays and Sundays, and Saipan-Manila every Mondays and Thursdays with the roundtrip ticket at an average of $500 per person including taxes.

Four airlines have already been flying from the Taoyuan International Airport with stopovers before Saipan. Asiana Airlines and All Nippon Airways each fly daily via Seoul and Narita, China Airlines five times a week via Guam, and Philippine Airlines four flights a week via Manila.

Dynamic Air is planning to launch a Taipei-Saipan non-stop flight in the first quarter of 2017 with the MVA targeting an additional 4,000 tourists from the Taiwan market.

Air Asia, Vanilla Air, t'way, Jet Asia, Eastar Jet, Air Busan, and Peach are the other Asian LCCs that are being targeted to offer non-stop flights from various destinations to Saipan.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i. Operating systems and application migration

Accountant

Job Duties:

- provides accurate and timely analysis, summarization, and reporting of accounting activities to internal and external sources, in compliance with established IT&E guidelines, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and Regulatory requirements;
- assists the Accounts Payable Coordinator, the Senior Accountant (Capital Accounts) and other senior accountants, as assigned
- processes payroll and related reports, filings and disbursements; reviews the submitted time sheets for proper account distribution and accuracy
- performs the accounts payable function; inputs and maintains information in the vendor master file
- works under the general supervision of the Accounting Operations Supervisor

Minimum Qualification Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accounting, finance or related field.
Work Experience: Two years of progressive professional-level accounting experience

Special Knowledge:

a. GAAP, GAAS, CFR 47, Part 32, and PTI Finance/Accounting practices
b. Technical and working understanding of JD Edwards accounting and report writer software, the ABRA Suite Payroll System, the IBM AS400 and TFS Billing Systems

Work Location: Susupe, Saipan
Contact Information: Email resume to HRSaipan@itehq.net

Torres administration, CARE prioritize rebuild

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said they have been helping the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts in the rebuilding of homes that either sustained damage or have been destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor last year.

Today is the anniversary of Soudelor making landfall on Saipan rendering the island without power and water for more than a month. Torres yesterday signed a proclamation declaring Aug. 1 to 6 as Typhoon Soudelor Commemoration Week.

The commemoration will honor the first responders after the disaster and those who contributed to the community's efforts to recover. The week ends with a SOU' Fest on Saturday, Aug. 6.

Torres, in last week's presentation by the Empty Vessel Ministry, said construction crew volunteers have began arriving and more groups are expected that would speed up the process of repairing and rebuilding the homes.

Construction workers on the island won't be enough to supply the need of the demand required for the repair and rebuilding of homes since there are other projects from the private sector that are ongoing.

That's why, Torres said that various volunteer groups would be coming to Saipan to help complete the repair and rebuild project with CARE as the administering non-governmental organization.

"They will be helping CARE in the repair and rebuild of homes destroyed by the typhoon. We will assist and give priority to the homes that were totally destroyed and we are going to also assist CARE with this project," said Torres.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is going to shoulder the airfare of the volunteer builders, an invitational travel program valued at $250,000. FEMA will be providing a rotating group of volunteer builders and support crew for the next two years.

"I've heard that there are still families living in tents in some areas and with the help of CARE we're going to look into it. We are going to address the homes by families who continue to be in need," he added.

The assistance given by FEMA is only intended to qualified recipients whose homes either need repair or total rebuild. FEMA has already approved more than $20 million in grants to qualified Saipan survivors according to its website.

FEMA's grants do not include those given to the Public School System to repair the damage in its facilities on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Francisco Mendiola Sablan, seated second right, poses with family and friends after Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog signed a bill renaming San Antonio Middle School to Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School last week at the Governor's Office conference room.

San Antonio Middle School renamed in honor of 1st principal

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog signed House Bill 19-106 into Public Law 19-55 to rename San Antonio Middle School to Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School in honor of the service and commitment to education as the school's first principal.

Sablan was SAES' first ever principal and he held the post from 1971 to 1985. Prior to becoming principal of the San Antonio school, he taught at the Chalan Kanoa School and also served as teacher education supervisor assistant.

He also had a stint as a lawmaker in the Mariana Island District Legislature from 1966 to 1968. After his two-year service at the district congress, Sablan worked as director of Personnel Services for the Department of Education from 1968 to 1971. He returned to the same position after retiring from SAES from 1985 to 1987.

His educational background is as follows: Fingley School (now William S. Reyes Elementary School) from 1945 to 1952; Saipan Intermediate School from 1952 to 1955; Pacific Island Central School in Truk Islands (through a scholarship from the U.S. Navy) from 1955 to 1958; and extension courses at the University of Guam and San Jose State University.

Prior to taking the principal post at SAES, Sablan received a scholarship to attend the University of Hawaii's School Administration for Principalship.

Sablan is married to Ana Palacios Sablan and the couple has eight children.

Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero expressed his gratitude to Sablan and noted the recognition as one way to show appreciation for the many educators in the Commonwealth. In 15 days, the Public School System will erect a new sign in time for the beginning of the school year. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
USED EQUIPMENT
CPA-PAN-001-16

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority will sell at Public Auction, August 2, 2016 at 3:00 PM used equipment at the ARFF Building Facility, Saipan International Airport. The equipment listing is available beginning July 18, 2016 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All costs associated in the removal, dismantling of the equipment shall be borne by the successful bidder. Bidders are requested to inspect the equipment by contacting Mr. Joey Sablan at telephone number 288-0091, Monday to Friday, 08:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The equipment will be sold "As Is" and "Where Is" and without Warranty. The successful bidder is required to pay 20% down payment on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable at the CPA Accounting Office, Saipan International Airport within 5 calendar days from auction closing date. Bidder shall only remove the equipment from the airport premises upon full payment of bid price. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment and equipment. Payment shall be in cash, cashier's check, or money order payable to CPA.

CPA assumes no responsibility for any costs incurred by bidder's in their preparation of the bids.

Inquiries may be directed to the Procurement Officer, Mr. Alex C. Tudela at telephone number 237-6563.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Christopher S. Tenorio
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice-Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the recessed Special Board Meeting on Monday, July 18, 2016 – 5:30 p.m., will resume on **Friday, August 5, 2016, 5:30 p.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes - February 10, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- February 25, 2016 Special Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. Properties for Sale
b. Personnel Matters
c. FY 2015 Audit

IV. OLD BUSINESS
a. Garapan Annex
b. RD Update
c. Adoption of the Amendments to the Section 8 Admin Plan

V. NEW BUSINESS
a. Loan Assistance
b. NMHC Procurement Regulations
c. Travel Policy
d. Reprogramming Authority

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **IGNACIO L. PEREZ**
Vice-Chairman of the Board

Police arrest suspect on robbery of masseuse at Micro Beach Hotel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested on Friday the suspect in the beating of a Chinese masseuse during a robbery inside her room at Micro Beach Hotel in western Garapan.

Police Detective Jeffrey I. Norita served an arrest warrant to Jodan S. Taitingfong, 23, in As Lito on charges of robbery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $25,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Aug. 9 at 1:30pm.

Attorney Rosemond Santos appeared as counsel for Taitingfong. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr. appeared for the government.

Detective Norita stated in his report that it was a "confidential source" who revealed to a police officer that the person on the surveillance camera's footage in the Micro Beach robbery was Taitingfong.

Norita said the "confidential source" is a close family member of Taitingfong.

Norita said the victim also identified Taitingfong in the photo line-up as the person who attacked her in her bedroom and ran away with her purse.

Norita said that last July 7 at 2:17am, two police officers responded to the robbery incident that occurred at one of the rooms on the third floor of Micro Beach Hotel in western Garapan.

The officers gathered that the suspect, who was later identified as Taitingfong, assaulted the masseuse in her room.

The officer noticed the victim's mouth was bleeding and her left eye and left cheek were swollen. The officer also observed drips of blood on the floor of the bedroom, restroom, in the sink, and on the bed.

Medics later transported the 41-year-old masseuse to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

Norita said during an interview with a police officer, the masseuse, through an interpreter, disclosed that she met Taitingfong, who asked her for a massage.

The masseuse escorted Taitingfong to her room. Upon entering the room, the defendant allegedly struck her, causing her to faint.

When the victim regained consciousness later, her mouth was bleeding and her face was swollen. She noticed that her purse was missing and the doors of her cabinet were opened and her belongings were all scattered.

Norita said a CHC doctor told him last July 7 that the victim's injuries were consistent to a blunt force trauma that caused bruising and swelling on the left side of face, and also a laceration on the lips.

Norita said the purse worth $500 contained $56, a copy of the victim's China passport, five China long distance phone cards worth $10 each, and a Best Sunshine International, Ltd. membership card.

Norita said he and another detective went to Taitingfong's house in As Lito last Tuesday, July 26, and invited him to the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau for an interview.

Norita said Taitingfong admitted he was with the masseuse on the early morning of July 7.

Taitingfong said he was in front of the Spa building when a Chinese masseuse asked if he was interested in a lady.

Taitingfong and the masseuse proceeded to her room, where she asked for payment.

Taitingfong said he told the masseuse he did not have money and that he then left the room immediately.

The defendant claimed that he left immediately because the masseuse might accuse him of doing something to her. He denied laying a hand on her.

Norita said she showed Taitingfong a footage procured from an apartment, where he was seen running away holding the masseuse's purse.

Taitingfong admitted it was him in the footage, but explained he was holding his betel nut bag.

Police recovered Taitingfong's grey RVCA hat he left in a rented car. Police also seized from the defendant's house, the short pants he was wearing during the robbery.

The surveillance camera captured a clear footage of the suspect along with the victim upon entering the hotel's main entrance on the ground floor.

The hotel's surveillance camera's footage shows that the victim and the suspect walked into the lobby of Micro Beach Hotel at 1:56am.

Witnesses saw the suspect fleeing down the alley between JJ Commercial Building and Micro Beach Hotel. The suspect was last seen running east of Micro Beach Road.

A hotel employee said she saw the victim and the suspect when they entered the hotel.

The employee said about 30 minutes later, she was surprised when she saw the bloodied crying victim coming downstairs accompanied by a couple who are staying next to the victim's room. The employee said she then called police.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Navy to conduct training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 Aug. 1-2 from noon to 10pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

KagES releases sked for SY'16-'17

Kagman Elementary School prinicipal Ignacia T. Demapan is welcoming parents and guardians of the school's incoming students for school year 2016-2017. She said it's the school's pleasure to inform them of the following schedule:

- Aug. 11: Parent/student orientation for grades K-2nd, 10am-11am, cafeteria
- Aug. 12: Parent/student orientation for grades 3rd-5th, 10am-11am, cafeteria
- Aug. 15: First day of instruction for all students (K-5th), 7:30am- 2pm.

During the parent and student orientation day, the teachers will present to meet with parents and of share instructional goals and expectations for the school year.

"We hope that our great moms and dads will be able to attend the above scheduled event, so that, you will be knowledgeable of our school continuous improvement plans and to become our partners in your child(ren)'s education. If you have any questions please call us at 664-3911," said Demapan

"Thank you and I look forward to see you all at our August pre-opening school activities. Your participation is greatly appreciated," she added. ***(PR)***

The CNMI WIC Program is celebrating

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2016
BREASTFEEDING
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Breastfeeding on demand provides all the water a baby needs, even in hot weather. On the other hand, formula feeding requires access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation.

Breastfeeding provides a healthy, viable, non-polluting, non-resource intensive, sustainable and natural source of nutrition and sustenance.

To think about:

What can you say to young people in your community about breastfeeding and the environment?

Come join us for the 5K World Breastfeeding Week Walk at the FILCOM Pavilion on Saturday August 6, 2016 for free health screenings, a fun walk and free t-shirts, water bottles and tote bags (supplies are limited).

Registration starts at 6:30 am and the event will end 9:30 am. See you there!

For more information call the CNMI WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

For all other FNS nutrition assistance programs, State or local agencies, and their subrecipients, must post the following Nondiscrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination

Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Japanese groups can help promote NMI

MACKENZIE PEREZ

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang meets with the visiting Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai or the International Youth Association of Japan last week at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said the yearly visits made by two Japanese groups would be a big help in attracting back one of the CNMI's biggest tourism markets. The Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai or the International Youth Association of Japan and the Sanpoen are the two groups.

They arrived separately with KSKK arriving on Saipan last July 26, while Sanpoen followed two days after. Both groups are part of the Saipan Mayor's Office's Student Cultural Exchange Program.

Apatang told *Saipan Tribune* that both groups could assist in promoting the CNMI's tourist sites especially the areas that have historical significance. Various Japanese groups hold rituals and other ceremonies in a number of World War II sites here on Saipan.

MACKENZIE PEREZ

Two members of the Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai or the International Youth Association of Japan give Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang a gift.

"It promotes good relationship between Japan and the CNMI since we're trying to get more Japanese tourists back and visit our islands. These students who become part of our exchange program take pictures and that's one way to encourage their families and friends to come here."

"When they go back to Japan, they will show the pictures they took of the scenic sites to their families and friends. By doing that, they are helping promote the islands. Hopefully these would attract them to come, visit us, and experience it for themselves," said Apatang.

He added that the CNMI is an ideal vacation spot for families. "Next time, they could encourage their parents to come here and see our sites. They would travel as a family."

MACKENZIE PEREZ

The Sanpoen group prays at Banzai Cliff last Friday.

JON PEREZ

A Shinto Buddhist monk, left, leads the tōrō nagashi or Japanese floating lantern ceremony last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School's beachside.

The Saipan Mayor's Office held a Sayonara party at the Minatchom Atdao pavilion last Sunday for the KSKK group, which leaves at 2pm today. Sanpoen's Sayonara party was held last night at the Chalan Kanoa Beach Club and they leave Saipan in two groups tomorrow, at 4:15am and 4:20pm.

The Sanpoen group held memorial services last Friday at the Banzai and Suicide cliffs, and the Last Command Post for the eternal repose of those who died in World War II. It is similar to the purification ceremony done by the non-profit Kuentai group last month.

Last Saturday, the Sanpoen group held a floating lantern ceremony at the beachside of the Hopwood Junior High School. A total of 300 paper lanterns were lit and floated in the water. The ceremony is called *tōrō nagashi* with the lanterns, based on Japanese beliefs, will help guide the spirits of the dead to the other world.

"This has been an annual event. They come here to experience the culture, visit the sites, and hold the ceremony. The Sanpoen group coming to Saipan started back during the time of Mayor Gere (Jesus Deleon Guerrero)," said Apatang. His term was from 1990 to 1998 and he died in 2014.

"We just continued the exchange program and in February our students will go to Nagoya, the host community. Where they will experience the Japanese culture," said Apatang.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 2, 2000

CPA won't takeover marina

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board yesterday stood pat on its earlier decision not to take over the operations of the financially-troubled Outer Cove Marina since the ports authority is still struggling to generate revenue to pay for its $33 million seaport revenue bond. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has asked CPA to study the offer made by the Marine Revitalization Corp. for the government to take over the operation of the Outer Cove Marina. MRC, a non-profit corporation operating the marina, is bleeding some $24,000 a month in interest payment alone for its huge debt. While the board understands the difficult financial situation of MRC, the ports authority cannot assume additional debts since it is saddled with its own financial problems, according to Board Chair Roman S. Palacios.

CNMI eyes less restriction on FSM food

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Jack Tenorio has assured the Federated States of Micronesia government the CNMI will immediately look into easing its Quarantine restriction order on food items exported out of FSM states unaffected by the recent vibrio cholera outbreak. FSM officials, during a formal dialogue between CNMI and Guam public health and environment officials last week, has disclosed that its own quarantine division has taken extra steps to beef up inspection to contain the spread of bacteria in the state of Pohnpei.

August 2, 2004

BOE pushes for drug testing on employees

The Board of Education is pushing to adopt regulations regarding drug testing on Public School System employees in hopes of furthering its efforts in providing "safety in the workplace and in the community." According to the BOE, the regulations would be implemented for all PSS employees who occupy "safety sensitive positions." Further, the BOE indicated that the implementation of the regulations also intends to further "improve job performance so that integrity of the workplace and achievement of PSS's mission are preserved." The proposed regulations were recently submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for review.

"Pagan's volcanic activity escalates"

Residents of Pagan were alarmed with the perceived escalation of volcanic activity on the island, reporting to authorities about the visible gas emissions from the volcano. Emergency Management Office director Rudolfo Pua said his office has received reports about the gas emissions, prompting him to plan on sending a team to fly over the island to confirm the report. "Pagan is smoking," Pua said, quoting residents' concerns. He said there are about 20 residents on the island.

It was unclear yet if the situation would warrant immediate evacuation. Pua also said he received information that the volcano was relatively calm. The EMO maintained that volcanic activity on Anatahan could change rapidly, advising aircraft to pass upwind or farther than 30 kilometers downwind from the island. The EMO also advised aircraft to exercise due caution within 30 to 50 kilometers of the island.

August 2, 2005

Close to 12K students return to school todau

The Public School System is expecting 11,300 students for the public elementary and high schools in the CNMI today and 600 students for the Head Start programs. The student number is based on the 3 percent increase from last year, according to associate commissioner for administrative services David M. Borja. Despite the lack of facilities and continued budget shortfall, Borja earlier said that they are welcoming both old and new students in schools around Saipan, Rota, and Tinian beginning today. Students have been zoned as a solution to the overcrowding problem in schools by having students from eastern and northern schools on Saipan stay or move to other campuses.

School starts with or without money

"We are going to start the school with or without the money," said Public School System associate commissioner for administrative services David M. Borja. Borja said the education system has to proceed as planned to start the new school year 2005-2006 tomorrow. He said the PSS has no option but "to do less but more" in contrary to the phrase "doing more with less," said Borja. "We would continue what we need to do." Board of Education chairman Roman C. Benavente confirmed yesterday that the Department of Finance fulfilled its promise to transfer of the funds worth $150,000. Benavente said the Finance office transferred the amount yesterday morning. The amount was part of the $610,000 that the PSS needs to repair schools and is meant to last until September.

Fiji holds workshop for aspiring artists

MACKENZIE PEREZ

Fiji jams with one of the youth that took part in a three-day summer workshop for aspiring artists last week at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Island artist George Veikoso, popularly known as Fiji, held a three-day summer workshop for aspiring artists on Saipan last week at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Fiji gave lessons on songwriting, production and engineering, vocals, and language to those who attended the workshop held from July 27 to 30.

"Just use your ear for listening to the melody. If you can play an instrument you can start from the progression and go from there and dwell on something you can relate to and write about that. There are many ways to do it but what I encourage you to do is to continue to do it until it kicks in," Fiji commented on how to write original songs.

"I've been talking about this workshop for two years with the governor (Ralph DLG Torres) because I saw kids with ukuleles walking around school, and I was inspired to share something. Because I see that there's no scene here, and I wanted to be able to encourage the artists who really get into it. Music is their passion. Music takes them away from a lot of negativity."

"Further promotions for me would be putting my music on iTunes, but I'm not here to promote my music, I'm trying to promote Saipan's artists and music," he said.

After the performances of local kids and the elderly, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gave a token of appreciation to Fiji.

"On behalf of The Association of Indigenous Marianas Artists, the government, and all musicians, family, friends and my better half, Lady Diann Torres, we give this token to you and your group for the dedication and commitment, and most of all to the sincere and genuine help to get us to that level," said Torres.

Fiji is a Fijian classic reggae, hip hop, R&B, and jazz vocalist, songwriter, music producer, and occasional actor. He was born in Fiji but raised in Hawaii. ***(Mackenzie Perez)***

Skywalker Communications puzzled by lawsuit from BSI

Skywalker Communications Group said it's puzzled as to why Best Sunshine International, Ltd. filed a complaint against the company claiming a breach of contract relating to two creative services agreements.

"We find it curious that BSI filed this lawsuit considering that we had already repeatedly informed them quite some time ago that they were violating the terms of the contracts and after they refused to adhere to mediation procedures as is required by the contracts and as required by law," the company said.

Skywalker Communications said the two contracts were negotiated by BSI and were according to the terms the Saipan casino developer requested.

"As for BSI's claims regarding the quality of our work, until today, BSI continues to utilize our advertising and public relations strategies and concepts, as well as, creative works (with only miniscule modifications) particularly key visuals and visual identifications which include the color theme, logo design placement and use, structure and composition, contextual contents, application, and placement, all of which were designed by the Skywalker creative team," the company said.

Skywalker Communications said in a way it's not surprised at all with BSI's lawsuit.

"This self-serving lawsuit is indicative of BSI's disregard for basic contract law simply because it believes it can bully its way in and out of the agreements so that they can avoid completely paying for services that have already been rendered and that they have and are currently enjoying and recycling."

Fortunately, Skywalker Communications said the contracts were entered into a U.S. territory where the rule of law prevails.

"Skywalker Communications looks forward to further exposing the truth about these outlandish claims in our Superior Court where it believes the facts and the law will be on its side." ***(PR)***

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Tan Holdings

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Will the mystery of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 ever be solved?

Secrets don't keep the way they once did. Technology sees to that. Everyone knows too much, monitors too much, backs up too much data to allow modern mysteries to linger.

So if street crime can be solved using video evidence, and a lost smartphone can be located via tracking software, there is no way a passenger jet with 239 souls aboard could simply vanish, right? That's the stuff of the Bermuda Triangle, a myth involving lost ships, planes and crews in the Atlantic Ocean that was debunked long ago.

The missing airliner, though, really is gone. Perhaps forever.

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, disappeared less than an hour into its overnight journey. Something went seriously wrong aboard the plane, which veered wildly off course and flew in the wrong direction for hours before running out of fuel. Search boats have plied the suspected crash zone — a remote stretch of the southern Indian Ocean — for two years looking for wreckage.

And?

They've come up empty. A few bits of debris from the missing jet washed up on distant African shores. But the crash site hasn't been located and survey vessels, equipped with sonar, are running out of ocean to scour. Investigators mapped out 46,000 square miles of sea bottom to examine — an area about the size of Mississippi. There is less than 4,000 square miles to go. If the wreckage isn't found in the remaining area, the governments of Australia, Malaysia and China say they will suspend the search. "The likelihood of finding the aircraft is fading," they acknowledged after meeting July 22.

That fact is heartbreaking for relatives. It's troubling for all fliers. Without wreckage to study, there will be only theories, some more plausible than others, about why the plane went down.

Everything seemed normal aboard Flight 370 until about 40 minutes into the journey. One of the pilots bade good night to air traffic controllers in Malaysia but never took the next required step: checking in with Ho Chi Minh City. Instead, the plane disappeared from air traffic control screens. Based on Malaysian military radar data and other evidence, the aircraft broke from its planned flight and crossed back through Malaysian territory. It flew south for about six hours over open ocean before falling from the sky.

The basis for calculating a potential crash zone was the discovery of a single point of continuing contact between the Boeing 777 and the outside world: a series of six automated hourly pings from a satellite communications system that were answered automatically by Flight 370. These

See MALAYSIA on Next Page

Two cities, two conventions, one choice

By BILL PRESS
Tribune News Service

Bill Press is the host of a nationally-syndicated radio show, a CNN political analyst and the author of a new book, "Buyer's Remorse," which is available in bookstores now. You can hear "The Bill Press Show" at his website: billpressshow.com. His email address is: bill@billpress.com. Readers may also follow him on Twitter at @bpshow.

For political journalists, there's nothing crueler than two national political conventions, two weeks in a row: Endless hours of note-taking; long, boring speeches by countless politicians; cheap hotels, lousy food and not enough sleep. You take one day of travel to another convention city, then turn around and do it all over again.

Every reporter complains about it, but too bad. Because the worst things for reporters are the best things for voters — a chance to see both major political parties up close, back to back, in order to weigh the differences between them. And there could be no greater contrast between two parties, two conventions, or two candidates than what we saw in Cleveland and Philadelphia.

The quick version is: One convention was built on fear, the other on hope. One convention ended up offering the most qualified person ever to run for president, while the other offered the least. As for other real differences between them, let me count the ways.

Tone. From beginning to end, the Republican convention was a public display of doom and gloom. If you believe Donald Trump, America's never been in worse shape: economically bankrupt at home, weak and disrespected around the globe and outsmarted and outgunned by ISIS-inspired terrorists. It's a pessimistic message designed to justify Trump's call to "Make American Great Again," which, again, only he can do.

By contrast, the picture of America painted by Democrats in Philadelphia, while realistic, was also positive, upbeat and sunny. As asserted by speaker after speaker: Yes, we have significant challenges, but, based on the facts, not mere assertions, we're stronger than ever, both militarily and economically, both home and abroad. As first lady Michelle Obama told delegates: "Don't let anyone ever tell you that this country isn't great, that somehow we have to make it great again, because this right now is the greatest nation on earth."

Messengers. Again, what a contrast. Republicans were obviously hurting for speakers to deliver the message. If Trump didn't have so many kids to fill in, there would have been hours of radio silence. Many leading Republicans — John McCain, Jeb Bush, President George W. Bush — who would have been invited to address the convention — didn't even show up. Several speakers avoided mentioning Donald Trump's name, and Ted Cruz refused to endorse him.

Democrats, on the other hand, had an embarrassment of riches: Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine joined by President Obama, the first lady, Vice President Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, House Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Leader Harry Reid, and a broad array of House and Senate Democrats. Plus a surprise appearance by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who gave one of the convention's most effective speeches and shredded Donald Trump with one memorable line: "I'm a New Yorker, and I know a con when I see one."

Issues. It's been a long time since conventions ever made any decisions. Today, they're little more than a four-day infomercial where networks give each party four days to make their case to the nation. Even so, it's a great opportunity, which Republicans in Cleveland totally wasted. There was a lot of talk about "Crooked Hillary" and why she should never be allowed to become president, but little talk about what agenda Republicans would pursue if they ever won the White House. Maybe that's because, in Joe Biden's words, Donald Trump "doesn't have a clue."

Democrats loaded their agenda with speakers on national security, climate change, clean water, gun safety, women's rights, gay rights, Black Lives Matter and a host of other issues, each with a specific plan for going forward.

Diversity. Big difference. Philadelphia was broadcast in color; Cleveland, in black and white. Mostly white. According to the website Fusion, only 18 out of 2,472 delegates to the GOP convention were African-American, while 1,182 African-Americans were among 4,766 delegates gathered in Philly, in addition to 292 Asian-Americans, 747 Latinos, 147 Native Americans, 2,887 women and 633 LGBTQ Americans.

Unity. Perhaps the biggest difference of all. Thanks in great part to Bernie Sanders, Democrats leave Philadelphia united solidly and happily behind Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine. Republicans are still trying to decide whether or not they like Donald Trump. Or trust him.

It boils down to this: Anybody who watched both gatherings must conclude: One party knows how to put on a convention, the other party does not.

GOP convention was dead right to highlight fears

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

The Republican National Convention was, despite conservative objections to the contrary, a dark affair. But to say that is not to be critical. To say that is to be practical, clear-eyed and observant.

Donald Trump earned his nomination by playing on the justified fears of his audience — Americans who had been served a steady diet of terror, bloodshed and angry protest both here and abroad. San Bernardino, Orlando, Nice, Baltimore, Baton Rouge, Munich, St. Paul, Dallas. It was not just about ISIS, or Islamic jihad. It was about anger in our own city streets, cops shooting civilians, and those same civilians targeting police officers like a sniper hunts its prey.

Whether the motivating factor of the violence was a belief in a warrior god who hates the infidel Christian, or a sense that the white man hates his black brothers, and the black man his white brothers, the end result was death and division. So those sunny-souled Pollyannas who were quick to point fingers at the ghoulish Republicans singing their partisan dirges were naive.

I came out of the RNC depressed, disturbed, but not surprised. To believe that everything will be all right and that, as that red-headed orphan sang, the "sun will come out, tomorrow," is the height of arrogance and shallow Hallmark sentiment. For many, it will not come out. The New York Times recently carried a front-page story accompanied by a pictures of some of the 247 people murdered by global terrorism during a two-week period in March. They are forever deaf to the happy sounds of renewal and hope, which permeated the next convention, the one that was praised for its light and uplifting message.

I watched both conventions, the dark one in Cleveland that played to our fears and our reality, and the glittering spectacle in my own hometown of Philadelphia that asked us to reject pessimism and embrace the philosophy synthesized in these words from a man I do love, Vice President Joe Biden: "We must rekindle the fire of idealism in our society."

I listened to speaker after speaker, to Michelle Obama with her maternal focus on what is good for our children, to Cory Booker who has the looks of a movie star and the histrionic delivery of a silent movie star, to Bill Clinton, who sang a pitch perfect but incomplete love song to his wife, to Tim Kaine, who is sweet but found a way to bore me in two languages, to a president who led a pep rally for the woman who waited her turn, and to mothers who'd lost their sons to gun violence, but not to the widows of police officers, and I was struck by one thing: There was no mention of those who had been killed by ISIS. It wasn't until deep into third evening of the convention that there was a reference to the assassination of Father Jacques Hamel, who was murdered by Islamic jihadists in the middle of celebrating the sacred Mass.

I waited for some reference, some moment of silence, some raised prayer in song or uplifted hands. All I got was Alicia Keys in some kitchen towels and no makeup wailing away about something and a slickly executed video with a DNC "Fight Song."

But, you will probably say, why would the Democratic National Convention show respect for a priest who had been slaughtered by Islamists in church? That's so dark, and Democrats don't do dark. They do sunshine, lollipops and flowers, except when they are talking about brutal police officers, bigoted religious conservatives or rich one-percenters. Then, they are fully capable of going to the dark side, raining invective down on those who disagree with them.

But usually, they look to mountaintop of human experience, and advocate for those things that elevate the spirit and increase the potential of everyone regardless of color, class and creed. As a recent caller to my radio show said, liberals are all about fairness. That, in fact, is why the Democratic platform includes a provision that would nullify the Hyde Amendment and allow for taxpayer funding of abortion. After all, poor women and rich women should have the absolute same right to kill their unborn children. Oh, sorry, that's dark and this is the DNC. I'll rephrase: All women should have equal access to reproductive healthcare. Better?

So I listened to this high-minded rhetoric about how united we are, how decent we are, how we can't let petty irrelevancies like race, and religion, and "who we love" divide us into the armed camps that are exploited by conservatives. According to the Democrats, all we need is love.

Well, excuse me for thinking that love wasn't enough to save Father Hamel as he fought for his life at God's altar. This is a dangerous world, and to ignore that fact in pursuit of some rosy fantasy that smells of patchouli and resounds with "Kumbaya" is suicide.

I am not a fan of Donald Trump, or his less than eloquent sound bites. I do not share his nihilism, his expectation of the worst from us instead of his hopes for our better angels. He is a pragmatist, a businessman who has not always managed his affairs wisely and well, an opportunist and even, in some ways, a grifter.

But he is a realist, and he doesn't pretend that the murder of a Catholic priest in France is irrelevant to our necessary actions at home. Not one of the major speakers at the DNC had the courage to promise that the evil soldiers of an evil cult would face annihilation. They held hands, spoke Spanish (Tim, you need to work on your accent), chanted about historic firsts (with the people of Pakistan, India, Germany, Great Britain, Myanmar, Israel, Liberia and even Iceland smirking) and acted like the "grown-ups."

Grown-ups would have mentioned that a priest had been martyred. But they were too busy crowning a queen and living happily ever after.

MALAYSIA

From Page 10

"handshakes" confirmed the plane's satellite connection was operating. The seventh ping got a different response, indicating the jet's communications equipment was logging in again after a disruption. That, in all likelihood, signaled that the aircraft had run out of fuel, gone dark and then switched to emergency power.

Amazing the different ways machines keep tabs on us all. The pings contained no location data, but experts were able to identify a presumed crash zone within a 400-mile arc off the west coast of Australia based on complex measurements of the distances traveled by the pings.

Yet all this amazing technology hasn't found the jet.

What happened aboard Flight 370? Perhaps a fire or other catastrophe was too much for the crew and passengers to manage, leaving the plane to fly on autopilot. Some see a terrorist plot or hijacking. There are theories about the captain's intentions, based on news reports that someone used his home flight simulator to plot a course to the Indian Ocean. But the Joint Agency Coordination Center — the Australian agency in charge of the search — seems nonplussed, declaring a few days ago that "the simulator information shows only the possibility of planning. It does not reveal what happened."

One point of speculation is whether searchers are looking in the wrong place. The potential crash zone was identified partly based on the assumption that the plane fell from the sky. But if someone was at the controls of Flight 370 and glided it to a water landing, the wreckage could be well off the search grid. … And with that scenario, we enter the uncharted territory of conspiracy theorists.

What we can say with certainty: The tragic disappearance of Flight 370, with all its passengers and crew, remains a tantalizing, frustrating mystery. The plane is out there somewhere. May the wreckage one day be found, and the mystery solved.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Looking out for our children

Our vision is a valuable sense that many take for granted, but if you have ever been hit in the eye by ball out on the playground or gotten sand in your eye during a day at the beach, you know there is no joy in having limited vision. August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month. A time when we "look" at helping our children maintain their vision.

According to Prevent Blindness America, parents should be aware of signs that may indicate their child has vision problems, including:

- Wandering or crossed eyes
- A family history of childhood vision problems
- Disinterest in reading or viewing distant objects
- Squinting or turning the head in an unusual manner while watching television

It is suggested that parents bring their child into an eye doctor if they notice these as signs, as some common eye problems may include:

- Amblyopia (lazy eye)
- Strabismus (crossed eyes)
- Ptosis (drooping of the eyelid)
- Color deficiency (color blindness)
- Refractive errors (nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism)

The National Eye Institute provides these 10 Healthy Vision Tips to care for your and your child's eyes:

1. Eat right to protect your eyes. Keep your eyes healthy by eating a well-balanced diet.

2. Get moving. Being overweight or obese can put you at a higher risk of diabetes and other conditions that can lead to vision problems.

3. Speak up if your vision changes. Tell a parent or teacher if your eyes are bothering you or you notice changes in your vision.

4. Wear your glasses. Your glasses help you see better, especially when they're clean and free of smudges.

5. Keep the germs away. Always wash your hands before putting them close to your eyes, especially if you're putting in or taking out contact lenses.

6. Gear up. Many eye injuries can be prevented with better safety habits, such as using protective eyewear.

7. Wear your shades. The sun's rays can hurt your eyes. Choose sunglasses that block 99 percent or 100 percent of both UVA and UVB radiation from the sun. And remember, you should never look directly at the sun.

8. Give your eyes a break. Staring at any one thing for too long can tire your eyes. Give your eyes a rest with the 20-20-20 rule: Every 20 minutes, look about 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

9. Say no to smoking. Smoking can put you at risk for some pretty serious eye issues, which can lead to blindness.

10. Talk about it. Does anyone in your family have issues with their eyes? Not sure? Ask! Talking about eye health with your family can help all of you stay healthy.

For additional information on eye problems, please visit www.preventblindness.org and/or nei.nih.gov. For more information on other vision impairments, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

Greg Borja
NMPASI projects specialist

Down syndrome—love knows no bounds

Having a brother with down syndrome has helped me realize that children born with disabilities are here on earth for the same reasons we all are which include but are not limited to living life to its fullest.

With that said, I was browsing the Internet one day and I red the poem below which I find relevant and very touching. It is written by an unknown author—I hope you enjoy:

"My face may be different But my feelings the same,
I laugh and I cry, and I take pride in my gains
I was sent here among you to teach you to love,
And God in the heavens looks down from above,
To him I'm no different his love knows no bounds,
It's those here among you in cities and towns,
They judge me by standards that man has imparted,
But these families I've chosen will help me get started,
For I'm one of his children so special and few,
That came here to learn the same lessons as you,
That love is acceptance it must come from the heart,
We all have the same purpose though not the same start,
The Lord gave my life to love and embrace,
And I'll do it as you do just at my own pace."

—Unknown

Down syndrome as defined by Google, also called Trisomy 21, is a condition in which extra genetic material causes delays in the way a child develops, both mentally and physically. The physical features and medical problems associated with down syndrome was named after John Langdon Down, a British doctor who, in 1866 provided the description of the condition.

From personal experience, I can say that my brother teaches me love everyday and that my love for him "knows no bounds."

For more information about disabilities, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

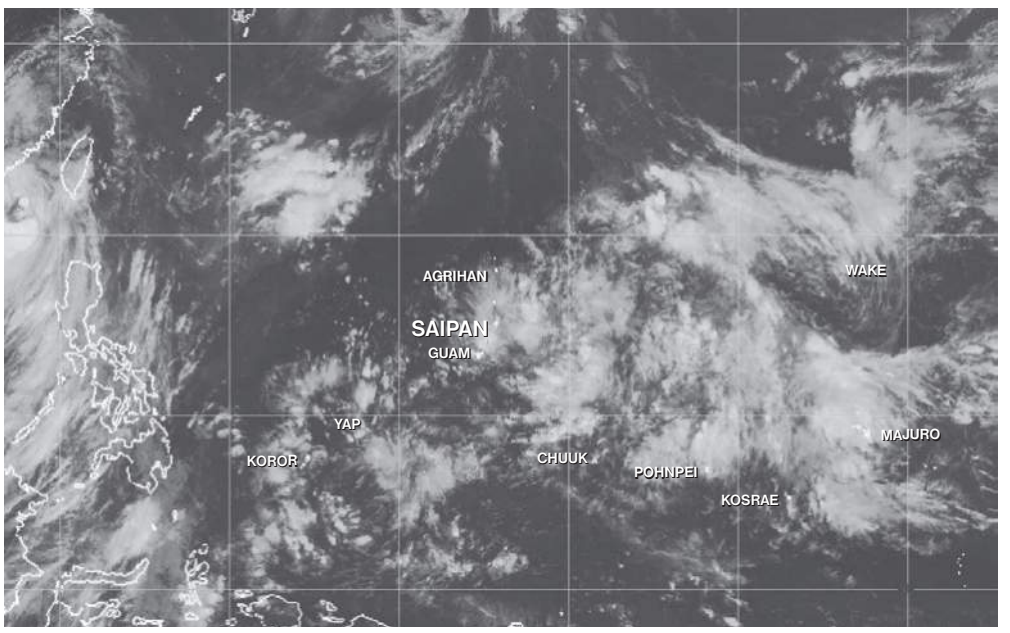
Nicole Deleon Guerrero
NMPASI intern

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. North winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. West winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87º ▼79º	▲87º ▼79º	▲87º ▼79º	▲88º ▼79º	▲88º ▼79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:12 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle winds, partly cloudy skies and isolated showers prevail over the Marianas this morning. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are evident on IR satellite east of Tinian and Saipan as well as south of Guam. For today and tonight, maintained isolated thunderstorms with the approaching trough that is now just east of the Marianas, but decreased cloud cover to partly cloudy. Models are now in very good agreement for the next week with the development of a monsoon circulation or gyre near the Marianas over the next few days. The big difference in rainfall amounts between the ECMWF and GFS has greatly decreased with the latest run. Both models now show a very wet pattern for the coming week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	84 / 92 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	80 / 86 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	78 / 89 °F
Chuuk	Partly sunny	79 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Partly sunny	78 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	79 / 87 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	82 / 86 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Afternoon clouds	49 / 57 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	73 / 92 °F
Hong Kong	Tons of rain	79 / 82 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 84 °F
London	Rain	59 / 68 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	67 / 80 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	79 / 88 °F
Melbourne	Morning clouds	46 / 53 °F
Miami	Cloudy	84 / 89 °F
New York	Cloudy	70 / 79 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	73 / 92 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	52 / 75 °F
Pusan	Thunderstorms	79 / 90 °F
Rome	Mostly sunny	67 / 92 °F
Salem	Light showers	56 / 74 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	55 / 69 °F
Seoul	Mostly cloudy	74 / 90 °F
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	75 / 87 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	72 / 87 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
1:55 AM	LOW TIDE	1.01 Feet
7:00 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97 Feet
2:15 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.34 Feet
8:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	5:06 AM	6:11 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	7:00 PM
Thursday	6:57 AM	7:45 PM
Friday	7:49 AM	8:28 PM
Saturday	8:40 AM	9:09 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Torres signs bill to improve accountability of healthcare

With the rising costs of healthcare, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed Senate Bill 19-61 into Public Law 19-56 last Thursday amending sections of Title 3 and 4 of the Commonwealth Code to assess the total costs of healthcare in the CNMI by establishing a claims and clinical data warehouse at CHCC and to improve accountability for how health insurance premiums are spent by requiring health insurance and health care providers to submit reports on claims and clinical data to the insurance commissioner.

Introduced in September of last year by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare adopted the bill in May.

The Legislature found that the Commonwealth lacked a medical claims and clinical data warehouse which PL 19-56 seeks to establish an office at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to monitor and analyze health care costs, improve coordination and quality of care, asses population health conditions, support health information exchange, conduct utilization reviews, identify healthcare disparities, inform consumers of cost and quality of healthcare services, support the planning and evaluation of healthcare operations and case, establish baseline data for application for funding and federal reporting, and conduct waste, fraud and abuse investigations.

Torres emphasized the importance of creating public policy that reflects the most current data, adding that health care is a key policy area that heavily relies on the most up-to-date information.

"The goal is to make sure health care is affordable and accessible in the CNMI. This includes establishing accountability for health insurance and health care," Torres added. ***(PR)***

Bill establishing cultural center passes House

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) bill establishing the Northern Marianas Cultural Center passed the House of Representatives last July 14 and House Bill 19-127, HS1 is now at the Senate for consideration.

Ogumoro said, "The Northern Marianas Cultural Center is established as a Commonwealth Public Corporation under the management and control the Board of Directors. The governor shall appoint one member from the First Senatorial District, one from the Second Senatorial District and three from the Third Senatorial District. The resident executive for Indigenous Affairs and the executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs shall be voting members of the board. The corporation's purpose is to plan, develop, establish, operate, manage and control the Northern Marianas Cultural Center, and to undertake programs and projects that will protect, preserve, promote, and enhance the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, heritage and traditions, and others, for the interest and benefits of persons of Northern Marianas descent. That, the Northern Marianas Cultural Center will help create jobs and contribute to the growth of the Commonwealth's economy."

HB 19-127, HS1 allows the allocation, for a period of five years, the interest accrued on the proceeds of the Marianas Public Land Trust Funds, which MPLT transfers annually to the general revenues of the Commonwealth for appropriation by the Legislature.

Such funds will be used to support the planning, development, establishment, and operation of the Northern Marianas Culture Center.

It also provides that upon the request of the corporation, MPLT may approve the advance of $5 million to the corporation subject to the approval of the Legislature. Such advance will be repaid by the withholding of future payments due to the general fund from MPLT.

Ogumoro said, "This is one of the most prudent uses of the MPLT interest income on its investments for the benefit of our people of Northern Marians descent. We continue to talk about cultural preservation and indigenous protection. What better way than to use these monies for the benefit of our indigenous people and cultures, and most especially, for the benefit of our children and future Chamorro and Carolinian generations."

"I also thank my colleagues in the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for supporting the passage of H.L.B. No. 19-30, S1, D7 that I authored which includes, among others, $75,000.00 set aside to fund the feasibility study for the Northern Marianas Cultural Center," she added. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 2nd birthday to our baby, Mitchiko MyLia K. Laniyo. May your special day, Aug. 2, 2016, be twice as better as last year's celebration. God bless you always and may you have a two-riffic day! Love always, Kai, Franklin, Mommy, and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To our bundle of joy, our princess. Happy 4th birthday, sweet Nirvana! Love, kisses, and hugs. Greetings from The Wolf Pack

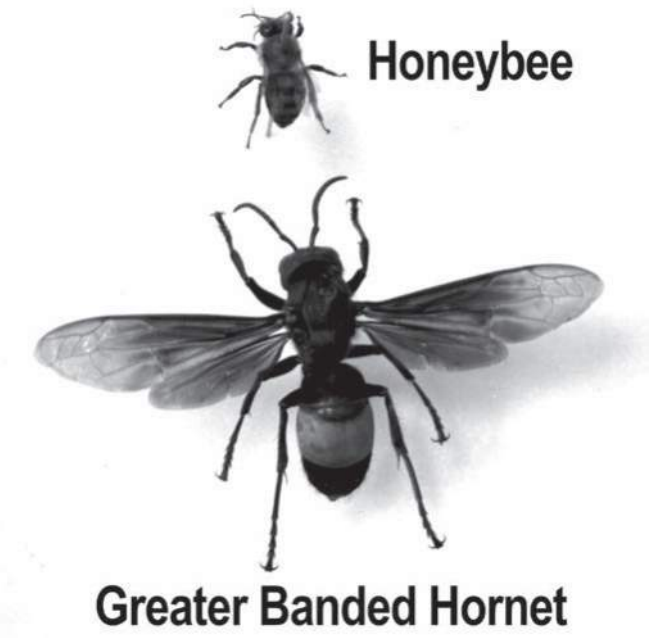
Greater banded hornet has found its way to Guam

A new species of wasp was recently found in Guam and identified by entomologists at the University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS) as Vespa tropica, also known as the greater banded hornet. These wasps are large and aggressive which make them a possible health hazard to individuals with allergies to bees and wasps as well as children and the elderly.

Vespa tropica is found in China, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, and the Philippines. These wasps raid the nests of other wasp species to take larvae back to their own nest to feed their larvae. The greater banded hornet has a distinct, bright yellow band around its abdomen. They build their nests in hollow trees and other protected areas or underground. Queens are about 30mm in size and the workers average 24-26mm, which is slightly larger than the diameter of a quarter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Vespa tropica or the greater banded hornet has found its way to Guam.



A size comparison between the greater banded hornet and a honeybee.

Two colonies have been found on island, one in Upper Tumon and one in Yona. "Residents of these areas called the CNAS Entomology Lab for assistance because people were getting stung. The sting from this large wasp is very painful," said CNAS entomologist Dr. Ross Miller.

"Both colonies have been destroyed, but since they were found in two different parts of the island, this hornet may already be established in Guam. We would appreciate help in knowing if there are other colonies and encourage the public to contact CNAS if they have seen this wasp," said Miller.

Please call 735-2001 to report a sighting of this new invasive wasp. Be prepared to give your name and contact information so that someone from the Entomology Lab can return your call. Alternatively, email Dr. Miller at millerr@triton.uog.edu.

Extension entomologist Dr. Aubrey Moore has prepared an informative fact sheet on the greater banded hornet and other recently arrived invasive species, which are available online at cnas-re.uog.edu/guam-new-invasive-species-alerts.

Invasive species are everyone's responsibility. The University urges the public to follow the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency and Guam Department of Agriculture rules and regulations to avoid accidentally introducing invasive species to the island. Eradicating or controlling an invasive species takes expertise, time, and a tremendous amount of resources.

For more information regarding the work UOG scientists and students are doing at CNAS, please visit cnas-re.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

Family Grief Support Group to meet on Aug. 4

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Aug. 4, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to parents, siblings, and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, email tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Business

Aging workforce puts strain on skilled manufacturing workers

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—In a small town just south of New Hampshire's capital, General Electric runs two plants filled with workers building jet engines for the world's leading airlines.

With 800 workers, GE Aviation is the largest employer in town. But in the next five to 10 years, about a third of those workers are expected to retire. The company is scrambling to not only fill those jobs, but to find workers with the needed skills to take on jobs that are becoming ever more technologically advanced.

It's a problem expected to play out across the region and the country over the next decade, driven in part by the growth of the economy and a rash of retirements among baby boomers.

"What we have found out is that as we raise the bar, we're finding it a little bit difficult to get a pretty good population or a subset of folks that we can pick from to fill those needs," said Peter Haley, a business operations leader at GE Aviation's Hooksett facility.

Nearly 60 percent of New Hampshire's manufacturing workers are over the age of 45, compared to 49 percent nationally, state and federal data shows. And from 2004 to 2014, the number of manufacturing workers in the state between the age of 35 and 44 dropped by nearly half. State projections show about 80 percent of open production jobs in the next decade will be to replace outgoing workers.

AP
Misty Thurston stitches suits for firefighters at Globe Manufacturing Co. Monday July 25, 2016, in Pittsfield, N.H.

On top of that, New Hampshire's 2.8 percent unemployment rate, one of the lowest in the nation, means the labor pool is already shallow.

"We're having to rebuild the entire pipeline of workers," said Katrina Evans, assistant director of the state's Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau. "It's not even so much a skills mismatch as it is a warm body mismatch."

Nationally, a 2015 report from The Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte found that the skills gap "is real, and it is substantial," noting that over the next decade, 3.5 million manufacturing jobs will have to be filled and that the skills gap means that 2 million of those jobs will go unfilled.

Of the CEOs surveyed for the report, 82 percent said that the skills gap would impact their abilities to meet customer demands and 78 percent said it would impact their abilities to implement new technologies and increase productivity.

"The basic consensus at this point is that the shortage of skilled labor is so severe that it's actually affecting the ability of companies to grow," said Val Zanchuk, a manufacturing executive and chairman of a new statewide effort to bridge the skills gap. "This is nationwide, and it's certainly reflected in New Hampshire as well."

But some experts think the nationwide skills gap is overblown.

Elise Gould, senior economist at the liberal-leaning Economic Policy Institute, said federal jobs data shows there are two unemployed manufacturing workers for every available job. She said employers looking for workers could be doing more to train available workers or attract more talent by offering higher wages.

"Actually, there's a lot of unemployed workers in that field that you're trying to hire in," she said, noting that she did not have specific data on New Hampshire's manufacturing sector.

New Hampshire and several other states in the region aren't waiting for the debate to play itself out.

Gov. Maggie Hassan announced this month the creation of the "manufacturing sector partnership," an initiative to bring different manufacturing companies to the table with educators to find out exactly what skills are needed.

US economy expected to pick up after weak growth in spring

WASHINGTON (AP)—A surprisingly lackluster economy last quarter served as a reminder of how choppy the pace of growth has been since the Great Recession ended seven years ago. Businesses pared their stockpiling and investment through the spring. But consumers—the heart of the U.S. economy—kept spending.

Most economists foresee faster, if still modest, growth the rest of this year.

The Commerce Department's report Friday showed that gross domestic product—the broadest gauge of the economy—grew just 1.2 percent in the April-June quarter. That was far weaker than the forecasts of most analysts, who had expected growth of twice that pace in a bounce-back from a slump at the start of the year.

Earlier this week, a statement from the Federal Reserve had led many economists to conclude that a strengthening economy would lead the Fed to resume raising rates as soon as September. But after Friday's tepid GDP report, many said a September rate hike was now probably off the table.

"The GDP data have significantly reduced the chances of a near-term rate hike," said Paul Ashworth, chief economist at Capital Economics. Ashworth predicts only one interest rate increase this year, in December.

The biggest factor for the shortfall in GDP growth last quarter was that businesses reduced their restocking by the most since 2011. That pullback in stockpiling subtracted 1.2 percentage points from annualized growth in the April-June quarter—more than economists had expected. It was the fifth straight quarter in which weak inventory building has dampened the economy's growth.

But most analysts say the efforts by businesses to adjust their stockpiles to more closely match their sales is probably ending and will be followed by increased restocking, which would deliver a boost to GDP in coming quarters.

"Businesses have overdone the inventory reductions, and that is likely to reverse in the third quarter, which will help growth," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight.

Behravesh predicted that GDP will accelerate to an annual growth rate of around 2.5 percent in the second half of the year. Even with that rebound, growth for the full year would amount to a sluggish 1.5 percent. It would be the slowest pace since the recession ended.

For 2015, revisions that the government issued Friday showed that the economy grew 2.6 percent, more than its previous estimate of 2.4 percent.

Economists are counting on the consumer sector, which accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity, to remain solid in the second half of the year, boosted by continued job gains.

For the April-June quarter, consumer spending did not disappoint: It grew at a healthy annual rate of 4.2 percent, the fastest increase in more than a year and more than twice the first-quarter rate.

Last quarter's overall GDP growth of 1.2 percent followed an even weaker pace of 0.8 percent in the first quarter. The fourth quarter of 2015 was also subpar, with GDP expanding just 0.9 percent.

Trade was a slight positive in the second quarter: It added 0.2 percentage point to growth, which may signify that export sales have stabilized after a slide resulting from global weakness and a strong dollar, which makes U.S. goods costlier overseas.

In the spring, the government sector contracted at an annual rate of 0.9 percent, led by weakness in state and local spending.

Sit-down meetings with staff will help newly promoted manager get off to smooth start

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: In my new supervisory position, I will be managing two people who may already resent me. "Grace" worked with my predecessor for 20 years and says they are best friends. "Becky" applied for the job that was given to me. Fortunately, the third employee is a recent hire who seems perfectly happy. How can I get off to a good start with this group?

A: Anticipating resistance is the first step toward reducing it, so your sensitivity to these issues puts you ahead of the game. Many newly promoted managers immediately dive into the work without taking time to build relationships. However, a few hours spent in group and individual meetings can result in a much smoother transition.

To begin making connections, gather your team for a get-acquainted session. Tell them about your work history and your reasons for choosing this job, then share any personal details that seem appropriate. Give them a chance to ask questions and provide some information about themselves.

If you're new to the organization, you might also ask your staff about the company culture and the history of this group. Remember that your goal is simply to learn, so listen to their comments without making judgmental remarks.

Before adjourning, explain that you plan to meet with them individually to learn about their work, ask for suggestions and discuss any concerns. Then schedule those sessions as quickly as possible. These one-on-ones will also provide an opportunity to raise touchy issues without too much fanfare.

For example: "Becky, I understand that you were also interested in the supervisory position, so I hope you aren't too disappointed. I'm looking forward to our working together, and I would like to hear any ideas you may have."

With the one who lost her "best friend," you can begin to help her adjust: "Grace, I know that you worked with Mary for many years, so I'm sure this change is somewhat difficult. I will probably do some things differently than she did, but I wondered if you had any particular concerns?"

Of course, these initial conversations are only a first step. But investing time in getting to know the staff can go a long way towards preventing future problems.

Q: My manager likes to discuss our performance reviews before he fills out the official evaluation form. During our conversation, his feedback was all very positive, with no negative comments. However, on my written review, I was shocked to find a below-average rating for communication skills. Why would he praise me to my face and then criticize me on the form?

A: Your boss clearly took the coward's way out, delivering the good news in person and the bad news in writing. On top of that, he saved up his critical comments for the review instead of addressing issues when they occurred. Performance feedback should always be given in real time.

But despite his mishandling of the process, there are apparently some issues which you need to address. So put aside your understandable irritation and ask how you might improve your communication skills. To circumvent this appraisal maneuver in the future, periodically request some constructive feedback from your gutless manager.

Nation

Texas balloon pilot had been arrested for DWI in 2000

AP
Robert Sumwalt, board member with the National Transportation Safety Board, answers questions during a press conference near the site of Saturday's hot air balloon crash near Maxwell, Texas, Sunday, July 31, 2016.

LOCKHART, Texas (AP)—The pilot of a hot air balloon that crashed in Texas and killed all 16 people aboard had been arrested in Missouri for driving while intoxicated in 2000, police said, and the Better Business Bureau there had warned consumers about doing business with him after complaints about his balloon touring company.

Alfred "Skip" Nichols, 49, was identified as the pilot by his friend and roommate Alan Lirette, who said that Nichols was a good pilot.

"That's the only thing I want to talk about, is that he's a great pilot," Lirette said, speaking to the AP from a house he shared with Nichols in Kyle, Texas. "There's going to be all kinds of reports out in the press and I want a positive image there too."

Federal investigators said the balloon, which was operated by Heart of Texas Hot Air Balloon Rides, hit high-tension power lines before crashing into a pasture in Central Texas early Saturday morning. One witness who lives a quarter-mile from the site, Margaret Wylie, said she heard popping sounds and saw what looked "like a fireball going up."

Authorities have not publicly named Nichols or the victims of the crash. They said identification of the bodies could be a long process.

There were reports of foggy weather in the area around the time of the flight. At least two of the passengers, Matt Rowan and his wife Sunday Rowan, posted photos on social media of the preparations, the early morning sunrise and themselves in the basket of the balloon a short time before the crash.

Ground crew members told investigators that they launched about 20 minutes after the expected 6:45 a.m. time. The balloon traveled about 8 miles from takeoff to crash, and the basket was found about three-quarters of a mile from the balloon itself.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators recovered 14 personal electronic devices, including cellphones, an iPad and three cameras from the crash site, which will be sent to a lab in Washington for analysis.

NTSB member Robert Sumwalt said the immediate focus of the investigation would be gathering witness testimony, starting with the ground crew on Monday.

"They've been busy trying to collect the maintenance records for us," Sumwalt said of the ground crew, adding that the records may be in Houston.

Sumwalt said the pilot had a commercial certificate to fly a hot air balloon and those records are being gathered from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Skydiver becomes first person to jump and land without chute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 42-year-old skydiver with more than 18,000 jumps made history Saturday when he became the first person to leap without a parachute and land in a net instead.

After a two-minute freefall, Luke Aikins landed dead center in the 100-by-100-foot net at the Big Sky movie ranch on the outskirts of Simi Valley.

As cheers erupted, Aikins quickly climbed out, walked over and hugged his wife, Monica, who had been watching from the ground with their 4-year-old son, Logan, and other family members.

"I'm almost levitating, it's incredible," the jubilant skydiver said, raising his hands over his head as his wife held their son, who dozed in her arms.

"This thing just happened! I can't even get the words out of my mouth," he added as he thanked the dozens of crew members who spent two years helping him prepare for the jump, including those who assembled the fishing trawler-like net and made sure it really worked.

The stunt, broadcast live on the Fox network for the TV special "Stride Gum Presents Heaven Sent," nearly didn't come off as planned when Aikins revealed just before climbing into his plane that the Screen Actors Guild had ordered him to wear a parachute to ensure his safety.

Aikins didn't say what prompted the original restriction, and representatives for the show and the Screen Actors Guild did not immediately respond to phone and email messages.

Aikins said he considered pulling out at that point because having the parachute canister on his back would make his landing in the net far more dangerous. If he had to wear it he said he wouldn't bother to pull the ripcord anyway.

"I'm going all the way to the net, no question about it," he said from the plane. "I'll just have to deal with the consequences when I land of wearing the parachute on my back and what it's going to do to my body."

A few minutes before the jump one of the show's hosts said the requirement had been lifted. Aikins left the plane without the chute.

He jumped with three other skydivers, each wearing parachutes. One had a camera, another trailed smoke so people on the ground could follow his descent and the third took an oxygen canister he handed off after they got to an altitude where it was no longer needed.

Clinton accuses Trump of 'degrading comments about Muslims'

ASHLAND, Ohio (AP)—Hillary Clinton said Sunday that Donald Trump repaid the "ultimate sacrifice" of a U.S. Army captain killed in Iraq with insults and degrading comments about Muslims, as the soldier's bereaved father pressured Republican Party leaders to distance themselves from the GOP presidential nominee.

Clinton's comments came after Trump refused to back down from his criticism of the Gold Star parents' remarks.

"Am I not allowed to respond?" Trump had tweeted. "Hillary voted for the Iraq war, not me!"

It was the latest bitter rhetorical volley between the defiant Republican candidate, Clinton and the family of a fallen soldier since the two parties concluded their major conventions last week and the nation looked ahead to a close election this November.

Trump's stand has once again left Republican leaders facing demands to denounce their party nominee and overshadowed Clinton's campaign message with controversy.

"He is a black soul," said Khizr Khan, whose son Humayun received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart after he was killed in Iraq in 2004. "And this is totally unfit for the leadership of this beautiful country."

Speaking on CNN's "State of the Union," he said, "It is majority leader's and speaker's moral, ethical obligation to not worry about the votes, but repudiate him, withdraw the support."

Likewise, Clinton told Republicans on Sunday: "This is a time to pick country over party."

In statements released Sunday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan condemned any criticism of Muslim Americans who serve their country and rejected the idea of a Muslim travel ban - an idea proposed by Trump earlier in the campaign. But neither statement mentioned Trump by name or repudiated him.

McConnell praised Capt. Khan as an "American hero," while Ryan noted that many Muslim Americans have served "valiantly" in the U.S. military.

"Captain Khan was one such brave example. His sacrifice—and that of Khizr and Ghazala Khan—should always be honored. Period," Ryan said.

Sen. Harry Reid, the Democratic minority leader, issued a blistering statement of his own, saying anything short of revoking their endorsements of Trump was "cowardice" on the part of McConnell and Ryan.

ACROSS THE NATION

5-year-old dies after being struck by lightning

CAROVA, N.C. (AP)—Authorities say a 5-year-old boy on vacation with his family died after being struck by lightning on a North Carolina beach. According to WTVD-TV, authorities say the family was on the beach Sunday in Carova at about 4 p.m. when the child was struck. The family put the boy in their SUV and met EMS partway. He was then taken to a hospital where he died. Authorities did not identify the family.

5 people die in fiery crash on I-80 in western Nebraska

OGALLALA, Neb. (AP)—The State Patrol says five people have died in a fiery crash that forced the closure of Interstate 80 in western Nebraska for several hours. Spokeswoman Deb Collins says several vehicles were involved in the crash that happened around 11:30 a.m. Mountain time near Brule in Keith County. The pileup began when a semitrailer truck struck the back of a van in the westbound lanes of the Interstate. Collins says at least two other vehicles were involved, and one of the vehicles caught fire. Five people died in the crash, but they weren't immediately identified. Additional people were hurt, but the State Patrol didn't provide details of how many or the extent of their injuries. Traffic was being diverted off I-80 between Oshkosh and Ogallala on Sunday.

Community helps dad raise money to see son in Olympics

DARBY, Pa. (AP)—A chance meeting during an Uber ride spawned a crowdfunding campaign to send a father to Brazil to see his son compete in the 2016 Summer Olympics. WCAU-TV reports that Ellis Hill's son, Darrell, is competing in the shot put for the U.S. Olympic track and field team. The Delaware County, Pennsylvania, man is an Uber driver in his retirement and was driving Liz Willock and mentioned the good news but said he couldn't afford to go. Willock said she works for a global concierge service with contacts in Brazil. She set up a GoFundMe account that by midday Sunday had topped its $7,500 goal. Hill said he's getting his passport and preparing to see his son compete. He said "It's big, man, and I'm very proud."

Asia

China's nuclear power ambitions sailing into troubled waters

BEIJING (AP)—China's ambitions to become a pioneer in nuclear energy are sailing into troubled waters.

Two state-owned companies plan to develop floating nuclear reactors, a technology engineers have been considering since the 1970s for use by oil rigs or island communities. Beijing is racing Russia, which started developing its own in 2007, to get a unit into commercial operation.

In China's case, the achievement would be tempered by concern its reactors might be sent into harm's way to support oil exploration in the South China Sea, where Beijing faces conflicting territorial claims by neighbors including Vietnam and the Philippines. Chinese news reports say plans call for deploying 20 reactors there, though neither developer has mentioned the area.

Tensions ratcheted up after a U.N. arbitration panel ruled July 12 that Beijing's claim to most of the sea has no legal basis. Beijing rejected the decision in a case brought by the Philippines and announced it would hold war games in the area, where its military has built artificial islands.

The floating reactor plans reflect Beijing's determination to create profitable technologies in fields from energy to mobile phones and to curb growing reliance on imported oil and gas, which communist leaders see as a security risk.

AP

In this Thursday, July 28, 2016 photo, a woman walks past a billboard showing the CNOOC 981 deepwater oil platform, used in the South China Sea, outside of the headquarters of the China National Offshore Oil Corporation in Beijing.

China is the most active builder of nuclear power plants, with 32 reactors in operation, 22 under construction and more planned. It relies heavily on U.S., French and Russian technology but is developing its own.

The latest initiatives are led by China General Nuclear Power Group and China National Nuclear Corp. Both have research or consulting agreements with Westinghouse Electric Co. and France's EDF and Areva, but say their floating plants will use homegrown technology.

"They are keen to develop that because they have a lot of oil drilling everywhere in the South China Sea and overseas as well," said Luk Bing-lam, an engineering professor at the City University of Hong Kong who has worked with a CGN subsidiary on unrelated projects.

"The Chinese strategy is to ensure the energy supply for the country," said Luk. "Oil drilling needs energy, and with that supply, they could speed up operations."

Russia's first floating commercial reactor, the Academician Lomonosov, is due to be delivered in 2018, but the project has suffered repeated delays. The Russians have yet to announce a commercial customer.

Russia has been "aiming to launch this idea for over two decades by pitching the reactor as a plug-and-play option for fairly remote communities," said Mark Hibbs, an expert on nuclear policy for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in an email.

Russia's target market was Indonesia and its far-flung islands, Hibbs said. That prompted concern about control over nuclear materials, leading to a recommendation Russia operate the reactor and take back used fuel.

The Chinese nuclear agency signed a deal with Moscow in 2014 to build floating power stations using Russian technology. It is unclear whether that will go ahead given the plans by CNG and CNNC to develop their own vessels.

Chinese developers can count on sales to the state-owned oil industry without going abroad.

CGN has signed a contract with China National Offshore Oil Corp. to support oil and gas exploration at sea. The company says it will launch its first vessel by 2020, with plans for 20 more. It declined an interview request and did not respond to written questions.

CNNC plans a demonstration unit by 2019.

A floating nuclear plant probably would be too costly just to supply power but could be useful in oil and gas exploration by also providing heat and fresh water, Luk said. He said CGN engineers told him their design is meant for islands or other remote sites.

Tensions with Vietnam have flared over Chinese oil and gas exploration near the Vietnamese coast. In January, Vietnam complained a Chinese oil company had towed a drilling rig into disputed waters. In 2014, the same rig was parked off Vietnam's central coast for two months, leading to violent anti-Chinese demonstrations and confrontations at sea as Chinese vessels rammed Vietnamese boats to prevent them from approaching the rig.

Reactors have been used on warships since the 1950s. But those vessels regularly visit port for maintenance and face little security risk because they are heavily armed.

Tokyo elects 1st female governor to lead city into Olympics

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo on Sunday elected its first female governor to lead the city as it prepares to host the 2020 Olympics, as voters turned to a leader promising clean politics after two predecessors resigned over money scandals.

Yuriko Koike was announced the winner by Japanese media as soon as voting ended, based on her definitive lead in exit polls. She will take charge of a sprawling metropolis with a population of more than 13 million and an annual budget bigger than Sweden's.

"I am pushing for a Tokyo where people's lives will be better, and everyone can shine—men and women, children and adults, the elderly and the disabled," Koike said, appearing at her campaign office, bowing deeply and waving to cheering supporters.

Koike, 64, had previously served as defense minister, Japan's first woman in that post. But she ran in the Tokyo election without the official backing of the ruling pro-U.S., pro-business Liberal Democratic Party. During her campaign, she wore green to symbolize her freshness, and asked her supporters to also wear the color and wave green fans and banners.

One of Koike's first jobs will be going to the Rio de Janeiro Olympics as the representative of the city that's hosting the next games.

Yoichi Masuzoe, the former governor, resigned in June after acknowledging exorbitant, though not illegal, spending of taxpayers' money, including for hotel suites and expensive artwork. The governor before him also resigned in disgrace.

Planning for the 2020 Tokyo games has run into problems, including ballooning costs, the scrapping of the initial main stadium design and delays in construction. The Tokyo Olympics logo had to be redesigned after the initial choice was reportedly plagiarized.

The games are a centerpiece for Japan's revival hopes as the world's third-largest economy strives to keep growth going, largely based on monetary policies after more than a decade of stagnation.

Amnesty warns that Malaysian law gives govt 'abusive powers'

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian security law that gives embattled Prime Minister Najib Razak sweeping emergency powers came into force Monday, with Amnesty International warning it could be used to trample on human rights.

Under the National Security Council Act, a council led by Najib, who faces pressure to resign over a financial scandal, can declare a state of emergency in areas deemed to be under a security threat. Security forces can impose curfews and have wide powers of arrest, search and seizure without a warrant.

The law is aimed at countering terrorism threats, but critics fear Najib will use it as a tool to hold on to power.

Amnesty said the law "empowers the Malaysian authorities to trample over human rights and act with impunity."

"With this new law, the government now has spurned checks and assumed potentially abusive powers," Josef Benedict, Amnesty's deputy director for South East Asia and the Pacific, said in a statement.

The human rights group said Najib and his government were increasingly resorting to repressive laws in the name of protecting national security "but in practice, imperil human rights."

The U.N. human rights regional office last week also said it was "gravely concerned" that the law may encourage human rights violations and lead to "unjust restrictions" on free speech and assembly.

Najib has been dogged for months by embezzlement investigations involving state investment fund 1MDB, which he founded in 2009. It is being investigated in several countries including the U.S., Switzerland and Singapore.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Seoul blames suspected N Korea organization for email scams

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea says a suspected North Korean organization has hacked into the email accounts of dozens of officials, journalists and others in the South. Seoul's Supreme Prosecutors' Office said Monday the organization sent phishing emails to government officials, journalists and professors who specialize in North Korean affairs to try to trick them into giving away their passwords earlier this year.

It says passwords for at least 56 of the email accounts were eventually leaked, but it did not say whether any confidential state information was also stolen. Seoul has blamed Pyongyang for a slew of cyberattacks in recent years. Pyongyang has denied the allegations.

India detains suspects in gang rape of woman, daughter

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Police in northern India said Sunday that they have detained 15 suspects after a woman and her 14-year-old daughter were gang-raped off a busy highway, the latest incident of sexual violence to shock the country. The attack took place Friday night near the town of Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh state after the car the victims were traveling in was stopped by a gang of men with an iron rod, said senior local police official Daljeet Choudhary. The men dragged the woman, the daughter and three male relatives who were traveling with them to a nearby field. They then tied up the males and raped the woman and the daughter, Choudhary said. He said several police teams were at work to ensure that the attackers were identified quickly. He gave no details about the detained men.

Taiwan president apologizes to aboriginals for suffering

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president has apologized on behalf of the government to the island's aboriginal peoples for 400 years of conquest and colonization. Tsai Ing-wen said Monday it was necessary for the government to face up to past injustices in order for Taiwan to move ahead as a fair and equitable society. Taiwan was inhabited by a variety of tribes for thousands of years before Dutch colonizers began importing Chinese laborers in the 17th century. Tsai was elected by a landslide in January elections that have thrown a shadow over the island's relations with China, which claims Taiwan as a part of its territory from ancient times. Her view of Taiwan as a colonial society clashes with Beijing's claim that the island has always been an inherent part of China.

World

Decree by Turkey's Erdogan brings military more under govt

AP
Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hugs a woman during an event to honor those killed and wounded during the failed July 15 military coup, in Ankara, Turkey, late Friday, July 29, 2016.

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued a new presidential decree Sunday that introduced sweeping changes to Turkey's military in the wake of a July 15 failed coup, bringing the armed forces further under civilian authority.

The decree, the third issued under a three-month state of emergency declared after the attempted coup, gives the president and prime minister the authority to issue direct orders to the commanders of the army, air force and navy.

It also announces the discharge of 1,389 military personnel, including Erdogan's chief military adviser, who had been arrested days after the attempted coup, the Chief of General Staff"s charge d'affaires and the defense minister's chief secretary.

The changes are part of a broad crackdown in the aftermath of the abortive putsch, which Erdogan blames on of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen who he says was behind the coup. Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania, denies any knowledge of the attempt to overthrow the government.

Authorities have continued to search for army personnel suspected of participation in the failed coup.

A night-time operation outside the Aegean resort town of Marmaris in the early hours of Monday captured nine people suspected of being part of a group that raided a hotel at which Erdogan had been staying during the coup.

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said gunfire was exchanged during the operation and that three suspects were still on the run. Television footage showed armed forces running through forest roads while a helicopter hovered overhead.

Erdogan had been on vacation in Marmaris when the coup occurred. A group of soldiers who raided his hotel in an attempt to capture or kill him is believed to have missed the president by an hour or less.

The night-time operation used drones and helicopters to pinpoint the location of the men, the official said, adding that authorities had been notified by a group of local villagers who had been hunting boars.

Apart from apprehending those who directly participated in the putsch, the government has sought to crack down on those suspected of being members of Gulen's movement and has been bringing the military under increasing civilian control.

Sunday's presidential decree puts the military commands directly under the defense ministry, puts all military hospitals under the authority of the health ministry, and also expands the Supreme Military Council—the body that makes decisions on military affairs and appointments—to include Turkey's deputy prime ministers and its justice, foreign and interior ministers.

It also shuts down all military schools, academies and non-commissioned officer training institutes and establishes a new national defense university to train officers.

Pope to young on Poland trip: Believe 'in a new humanity'

KRAKOW, Poland (AP)—Pope Francis told young people who flocked by the hundreds of thousands to his words Sunday that they need to "believe in a new humanity" stronger than evil, and cautioned against concluding that one religion is more violent than others.

Organizers of the Catholic jamboree known as World Youth Day estimated 1.5 million youths attended his Mass at a meadow near Krakow, many of them having camped out in sleeping bags from a vigil service of prayer, singing and dance performances the previous evening.

The jamboree, meant to infuse young Catholics with fresh passion for their religion, was the main reason Francis came to Poland on a five-trip, which also took him to the former Nazi Auschwitz death camp, where he prayed in silence and reflected on what he called "so much cruelty," and to a church in Krakow, where he prayed that God protect the world from the "devastating wave" of terrorism.

Extremist violence was on his mind when he set out last week, the day after extremists rushed into a church in the French countryside and murdered the elderly priest there, slitting his throat, as he was celebrating Mass.

Flying back to Rome Sunday night from Krakow, he was asked by reporters why he has never used the word "Islam" when denouncing terrorist attacks.

Francis said he thinks "it's not right to identify Islam with violence."

He added that every religion has its "little group of fundamentalists.'" He said that if he speaks of violent Islam, he'd have to speak of violent Catholicism, since Catholics kill, too.

Referring to Isis, also known as Islamic State group, Francis said it "presents itself with its violent identity card, but it's not Islam.'"

Security was very tight throughout the pope's five-day visit, but he encountered huge crowds day after day without incident and arrived back in Rome on Sunday evening.

The pope used his several encounters with the young pilgrims—from mega-gatherings to a private lunch with only a dozen people from five continents—to encourage a new generation to work for peace, reconciliation and justice.

Muslims go to Catholic Mass in France, Italy for solidarity

ROUEN, France (AP)—Muslims in France and Italy flocked to Mass on Sunday, a gesture of interfaith solidarity following a drumbeat of jihadi attacks that threatens to deepen religious divisions across Europe.

From the towering Gothic cathedral in Rouen, only a few miles from where 85-year-old Rev. Jacques Hamel was killed Tuesday by two Muslim fanatics, to Paris' iconic Notre Dame, where the rector of the Mosque of Paris invoked a papal benediction in Latin, many churchgoers were cheered by the Muslims in their midst.

Interviewed outside the cathedral in Rouen, Jacqueline Prevot called it "a magnificent gesture."

"Look at this whole Muslim community that attended Mass," she said. "I find this very heartwarming."

French television broadcast scenes of interfaith solidarity from all around France, with Muslim women in headscarves and Jewish men in kippot crowding the front rows of Catholic cathedrals in Lille, Calais or the Basilica of St. Denis, the traditional resting place of French royalty.

There were similar scenes in Italy, where the head of Italy's Union of Islamic communities—Izzedin Elzir—called on his colleagues to "take this historic moment to transform tragedy into a moment of dialogue." The secretary general of the country's Islamic Confederation, Abdullah Cozzolino spoke at the Treasure of St. Gennaro chapel; three imams also attended Mass at the St. Maria Church in Rome's Trastevere neighborhood, donning their traditional dress as they entered the sanctuary and sat down in the front row.

Ahmed El Balazi, the imam of the Vobarno mosque in Italy's Lombard province of Brescia, said he did not fear repercussions for speaking out.

Germany mourns shooting victims, president vows resilience

BERLIN (AP)—Munich on Sunday mourned the victims of the shooting rampage in which nine people were killed, with Germany's president vowing that the country won't give in to fear after a string of violence that also included two attacks claimed by Islamic extremists.

On July 22, an 18-year-old German-Iranian man killed nine people and wounded over 30 others at a McDonald's restaurant and shopping mall in the city. He then killed himself. There was no suggestion that Islamic extremism played any part in the slayings.

"We will probably never find out what really moved him and pushed him to his inhuman actions," President Joachim Gauck said at a memorial event in Bavaria's state parliament.

The rampage in Munich was the deadliest of a string of attacks over a week that rattled Germany—a sequence that also included an ax attack and a bombing in Bavaria that were both claimed by the Islamic State group.

Gauck acknowledged that "the events outstrip our ability to distinguish one act from another—we find it hard to distinguish between whether an act was committed in the name of a religion or an ideology, out of fanaticism, nationalism or racism."

"There is one thing we will not give all those who want to make our home a place of fear and horror, the assailants and gunmen and the terrorists: our submission," he said. "They will not force us to hate like they hate. They will not keep us in the captivity of perpetual fear."

Earlier Sunday, Gauck joined Chancellor Angela Merkel and regional officials at a nondenominational service in the city's Frauenkirche, or Church of Our Lady. That service included an address by a Muslim representative, reflecting the fact that several of the Munich victims were Muslims.

German officials have said the Munich gunman was a withdrawn loner obsessed with playing "killer" video games who had been treated for depression and psychiatric problems. Witnesses said the gunman shouted slurs against foreigners, even though he himself was the German-born son of Iranian asylum-seekers.

Focus

For a child's dreams, are parents going for gold, or broke?

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

The Olympics spark hope in many a child of going for the gold. But in financially supporting those dreams, some parents are going for broke.

For his 15-year old son's travel hockey team, Tim Richmeier was spending about $5,000 a season: using his tax refunds, halting contributions to his 401(k), and putting travel expenses on a credit card—including $6,000 he's still paying off. Richmeier said it was a great experience for his child. But after four years, it was a financial relief when his son didn't make the team.

"I was kind of dreading the upcoming season, knowing I'd go deeper in the hole," said Richmeier, a single father in Phoenix.

Competitive youth sports in the U.S. are rising in popularity. The exclusive club and travel teams come with added coaching and intense competition, as well as much higher costs than a school or community team.

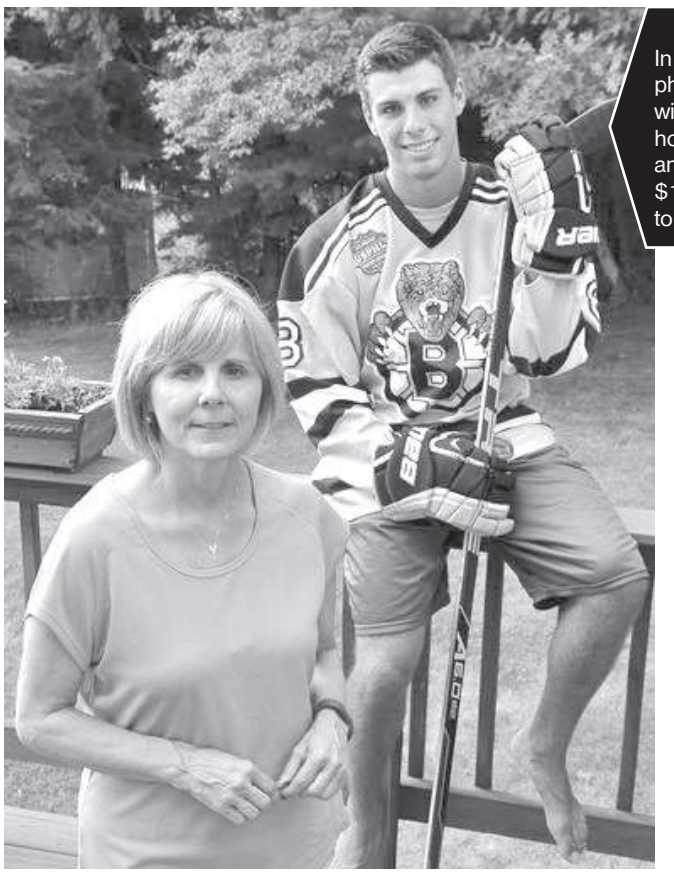
A survey released Monday by TD Ameritrade of 1,000 parents whose children are involved in such elite endeavors finds most pay between $100 and $499 a month. For one in five, it's more than $1,000.

Some parents can absorb the cost, but others are working second jobs, depleting their savings or otherwise compromising their own financial well-being to fund the activities. In the survey, 60 percent say the expense has them concerned about their ability to save for the future.

Parents largely say they don't regret the spending because of the physical, mental and emotional benefits for their children. But financial and athletic experts suggest parents make a more objective assessment of at what cost the kids are pursuing these dreams.

Of nearly 8 million U.S. students currently participating in high school athletics, only 480,000 compete at the college level at an NCAA school, according to the organization. Few from that group will move on to compete at the Olympic or professional level.

And parents hoping for a scholarship to offset their sacrifices may be disappointed. NCAA schools awarded more than $2.9 billion in athletics scholarships last year. But a full ride is rare, and a partial scholarship may come to a fraction of what it cost to get a child to that level.



AP
In this Friday, July 29, 2016, photo, Debbie Amorelli poses with her son, Chris, 17, at their home in Upton, Mass. Debbie and her husband spend about $10,000 a year to pay for Chris to play hockey.

"The presenting of those numbers doesn't discourage many people, it's in the American character to go after it," said Tom Farrey, who leads the Sports & Society Program at the Aspen Institute. Farrey says the economic hurdles of the elite teams leave many kids behind, and it's not always good for those who do participate.

"Parents are coming from a place of love, they want what is best for their kids," said Travis Dorsch, founding director of the Families in Sport Lab at Utah State University. "Unfortunately they are misinformed."

Specializing in just one sport early, common among elite team players, leads to greater burnout and an increased likelihood of injury, Dorsch said. And he found that families who made larger financial investments in a child's athletic participation led to kids feeling more pressure, less enjoyment and a lower commitment to the sport.

Of the families in Dorsch's research, which spanned many income and sport participation levels, more than half invested less than 1 percent of their gross income. But nearly 15 percent invested between 2 percent and 5 percent, and 3 percent invested more than 5 percent of their gross income.

Even for those who can afford it, there is stress.

Lisa Williams of Wilmette, Illinois, sees the $2,000 or so she spends each season on her daughter's soccer team not as an investment in a sports future but in her child's skill set off the field. In her affluent neighborhood there is a "certain expectation of excellence" and the assumption if your child plays sports that they'll do so on a travel or elite team.

"Some of it is parent peer pressure, do you want to be the parent who doesn't send their kid to the extra training and the summer camps and the extra clinics?" Williams said. "You don't want people to think, 'Oh, she doesn't love her kid.'"

That pressure is part of a shift in parenting and culture over recent decades, experts say.

"We tend to get very emotionally invested in the life of our kids in sports, it makes us more vulnerable to making questionable decisions," said Mark Hyman, who teaches in the business of sports program at George Washington University.

He notes that many people have an economic interest in parents spending more on sports—from elite coaches to the facilities that host the tournaments. So parents may be urged to make decisions that are not based on neutral input.

"The challenge is to recognize sports for kids are great but they are great because they give you these positive lessons they can carry on through life," Hyman said. "You should never do sports as an investment. ... If you do that you are almost certain to be disappointed and to turn your kids off sports."

Debbie Amorelli of Upton, Massachusetts, says she wrestles with how much she and her husband spend on hockey participation for her 17-year old son, who hopes to play at college. The fees, gear and travel add up to about $10,000 a year. They pay for it using an inheritance from her father, but without it Amorelli says she doesn't know what they would have done.

"The experiences he is having are priceless," she said. "But we keep saying to him: This is essentially coming out of your college fund, this is money we could be putting away."

Amorelli's son, a junior in high school, may need to keep playing for a year or two after graduation to make a college team. That's an expense they're unsure about.

"We have no idea if this is going to turn into anything other than literally money down the drain," she said.

Tips for parents on sports participation and spending

It's a natural desire for parents to support their child's dreams, no matter the cost. But experts say there are ways parents can make their kids' participation in sports more positive and avoid sacrificing their own financial security.

ENCOURAGE MULTIPLE SPORTS: Parents are often told that a child with potential should participate in intense or year-round programs to build that skill. But studies show early specialization does more harm than good. It increases the risk of overuse in developing bodies, causes kids to burn out on sports and decreases overall athletic development, according to Aspen Institute's Project Play, an effort to make sports accessible to all.

COMMUNICATE REGULARY: Check in with kids about what they really want to do. Some crave a competitive environment and others don't want to be pushed into that pipeline, says Travis Dorsch, founding director of the Families in Sport Lab at Utah State University. It's often parents, not kids, that find and suggest these elite teams, he said. And children, attuned to underlying messages, often provide answers based on what the parents want to hear. He suggests checking with kids weekly, monthly and seasonally to make sure they are still having fun and engaged.

SUPPORT FREE PLAY: Forget practice and drills—engaging in free or loosely structured play is important, says Tom Farrey of the Aspen Institute. Kid-led activities are important in making sports fun and building creativity. Need convincing? Farrey points out that free play was important to athletes like Michael Jordan and Brazilian soccer stars who played pickup games in their neighborhoods.

MANAGE EXPECTATIONS: Odds are against a child going to the Olympics, going pro or even playing in college. That's no reflection on the parents. Sociologist Jay Coakley says many parents have been conditioned to view their child's achievements—at school, on the field or elsewhere—as a measure of their worth as a parent. Parents should recognize what messages they are listening to internally when making decisions. He suggests providing children with an array of experiences and some autonomy to pursue and enjoy whatever their interests are.

AP
In this Thursday, July 28, 2016, photo, Tim Richmeier poses for a photo with some of his 15-year-old son's hockey equipment, in Phoenix.

DON'T DISMISS ACADEMICS: Parents who really want their kid to get college paid for should get a biology tutor, not a sports coach, says Mark Hyman of George Washington University. Academics might be compromised for intense training, but school studies provide more opportunity for scholarships and are important to lifelong success.

REMEMBER FINANCIAL NEEDS: Parents need to pay the bills each month and have a nest egg when they retire. It's not bad to spend on sports or even elite teams, but athletic and financial experts say parents need to find what works for their lives. As much as parents are committed to their kids and their dreams, they should be committed to their own financial prospects. ***(AP)***

Overdrive

Auto review: Ford Fusion Energi is a platinum-grade plug-in

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ford Motor Co. has added another plug-in hybrid passenger car to its growing fleet of alternative fuel vehicles. It's a Fusion Platinum Energi, which joins Ford's Fusion, C-Max and Focus family of fully or partly electrified vehicles. Taking the company's hybrid effort to a new level of luxury, it's now the leading edge of a fleet of 13 new electrics Ford says it will put on the road by 2020.

Ford boasts that the Platinum Energi's 610-mile combined gas and battery power range, up from 550 miles on the 2016 model, is the industry's highest. It's almost triple the range, Ford crows, of the highly anticipated Tesla Model 3 and its proposed 215 miles of all-electric range.

Ford says the Energi can travel 21 miles on battery electric power before the gasoline engine kicks in. An overnight plug-in is required to bring it back to full power.

The industry pitch on hybrids is simple: You can drive around on battery power, and cover most of your driving needs, then recharge while your car sits idle at work or at home. Many drivers will be able to complete their daily commutes without ever having to visit a gas station.

(Ford's research says that 47 percent of U.S. drivers have a daily commute of under 21 miles, according to Kevin Layden, the company's director of electric power train engineering.)

But, unlike battery electric vehicles such as those made by Tesla, the hybrid can be gassed up and run on a traditional engine when needed for longer drives. So, the pitch goes, they offer all the green, gas-free pleasures of electric, with the range-anxiety-reducing reassurance of gas.

But hybrids, like plug-in electrics, don't sell very well. Fewer than 3 percent of all vehicles sold in the U.S. last year were anything other than traditional powertrain vehicles burning fossil fuels.

So hybrids are priced accordingly, like the special-interest, niche vehicles they are. An entry-level, gasoline-powered Fusion, which gets up to 32 miles per gallon on the highway, starts as low as $22,985. A hybrid version of the base-level car gets up to 43 miles per gallon in highway miles and costs $26,060. Plug-in Fusions, offering fuel efficiency of over 100 miles per gallon, start at $31,995.

The Platinum Energi, which offers an estimated 104 miles per gallon in the city and 91 on the highway, starts a little higher at $37,995. Add a few luxury items and you're close to $40,000.

To be fair, Ford's top-drawer PHEV does feel like a luxury car. It's plush and quiet, around town and on the freeway — so quiet that I often wasn't aware whether I was in gasoline or electric mode. (Because it has a push-button keyless ignition, I actually got out of the car and locked the doors, twice, without realizing I'd left the engine running. It's that quiet.)

NUTS & BOLTS

2016 Ford Fusion Platinum Energi

- **Quick take:** Ford's high-end plug-in hybrid
- **Highs:** A luxurious ride with great MPG
- **Lows:** Big greenbacks for green technology
- **Vehicle type:** Four-door sedan
- **Base price:** $37,995
- **Price as tested:** $38,780
- **Powertrain:** 2-liter I-4 plug-in hybrid engine FWD, paired with 7.6 kWh lithium-ion battery
- **Transmission:** E-CVT Automatic
- **Horsepower:** 141
- **Torque:** 129 pound-feet
- **EV range:** 21 miles

EPA fuel economy rating: 43 mpg city/41 highway/42 combined; 97 combined MPGe

The Energi's handling is somewhere between stately and stodgy — this isn't a zippy car — and the acceleration is well-suited for sensible, adult driving.

Creature comforts abound. The cushy front seats, which are heated and cooled, have a snug, sporty feel. The back seats, though not offering massive leg room, are Mercedes-level plush. The "white platinum MET Tri-coat" paint job, a $595 extra, is luscious. Why, the cupholders even light up, in delicate blue tones, when the front doors are opened.

The dash and console area are clear and uncluttered. Ford — like Fiat Chrysler, Cadillac and some other brands — has eliminated the traditional gear shift arm on the steering column and replaced it with a rotary transmission dial in the center console.

The infotainment system is intelligently designed and displayed. It synced up easily with my iPhone — not all systems do — and felt pretty intuitive as I negotiated my way through entertainment, climate control, navigation and communication screens. No one that I called on the phone told me I sounded like I was speaking from inside a 50-gallon drum.

It also comes standard with a moonroof, a feature that confuses me. What's it for? Do you use it in the daytime, and pretend you're in a convertible? Do you use it at night, to view the moon? Or is it for passengers to moon other motorists?

There are technical extras, too. The Fusion has an adequate blind-spot detection and lane departure warning system — which asked me if I was "drowsy" and showed me a coffee cup icon when I drifted sideways — a reverse sensing system and "pre-collision assist," which anticipates a crash and then either helps you apply the brakes or makes a phone call to your insurer to alert them that you'll be making a claim.

Ford's "adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go technology" will do something similar. When engaged, it will slow the vehicle, right down to a full stop, and then resume freeway speeds, without input from the driver.

I am a big supporter of such semi-autonomous driving features, which could help prevent a huge number of freeway accidents. I tried several times to engage this one, though, without success.

The suite of safety and convenience features includes a hill-hold button, so the car does not lose altitude when it's in gear on a slope. It also includes a remote start function, so that, presumably, you can get the AC or heater going before you enter the vehicle.

The Platinum Energi also comes standard with what Ford calls "Enhanced Active Park Assist." This system asks the driver to indicate he's looking for a parallel parking place, and then allows the car to find one and get into it with only accelerator and brake pedal input from the driver.

It's not as sophisticated as some similar systems I've experienced but is very welcome for people who are, like me, poor parallel parkers.

The Energi doesn't come with two things that I would miss: trunk space and a spare tire. Like most plug-in hybrids, the Energi uses the rear storage area to house its large battery, which means this substantially sized vehicle won't carry substantial luggage. (The C-Max does this too. That fact alone pushed one of my family members away from the plug-in, toward the hybrid, because she couldn't live with so little trunk space.)

Also, like a lot of new cars, the spare tire has been replaced by a tire repair kit, suitable for roadside emergencies but not designed to get you any farther than the nearest Pep Boys.

MCT

Ford's Fusion comes in a variety of platforms, from a turbocharged V6 sport version to the plug-in hybrid Platinum Energi, pictured here.

UNDER THE HOOD:

How to fix beloved Mustang's stubborn window?

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: Last year I bought a 2007 Mustang convertible with 18,500 miles on it. It is beautiful and I love driving it. It's my fun car. It now has 22,350 miles on it.

I have two questions.

First, the last time I put the top down and wanted to bring it up again, the passenger side rear window only came up three-quarters of the way and it still won't come up any farther. Other than not coming up all the way, it operates normally. One dealer said fixing the window would cost $1,800 and would involve replacing a computerized part. Another dealer said he'd charge $600 to replace the regulator. Who should I believe? I'm a widow, so, unfortunately, I can no longer ask my husband for car advice.

Any thoughts? I don't want to be taken. Money is tight, but I want it fixed. I love the car.

Second, is installing a roll bar going to help in a rollover situation, or is it not worth putting in? The cost of the roll bar would be $800 plus labor, which the dealer said he couldn't estimate in advance of doing the job because they've never installed one before.

—Louise M.

A: It would be tough to say what's happening with your Mustang's quarter glass window without some disassembly and testing.

Mustang front windows are programmed to do some impressive things, including going fully up or down after a quick touch (no need to hold down the button), stopping or reversing if they encounter interference, and performing a short drop (dropping slightly as a door is opened and then going back up when the door is closed). All the windows ought to fully drop when you instruct the car to raise or drop the convertible top.

If you were having issues with a front window doing odd things, an initialization procedure would be advised, but such a procedure doesn't apply to quarter windows. It's unlikely your problem's being caused by a computer, sensor or network fault.

It seems most likely that the window regulator mechanism is faulty or its range of motion is somehow obstructed. How about employing a helper who can try to lift or roll the window forward by hand as you operate the switch? Do this with the vehicle's top up and the front windows down. If your window can be horsed home, this will allow you more options for when and where to have it fixed. If needed, a replacement regulator should cost about $175 plus tax and labor, which ought to be about an hour and a half.

As for your second question, installing a roll bar could be a good idea but it will be pricey and may result in limited rearward adjustment range for the front seats. Your Mustang received a five-star rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the type of rollover caused by an over-corrective evasive turn at speed. About 85 percent of rollover fatalities are single-car incidents believed to be caused by driver error. And about 75 percent of rollovers occur on rural roads where the speed limit is 55 mph or higher.

My belief is your car is very safe if driven under typical conditions and in a responsible manner. Adding a roll bar makes more sense for folks with a penchant for spirited driving or frequent driving on challenging roadways. I remember my Dad saying, "It's always better to hit what's in front of you rather than risk leaving the road to avoid it."

ABOUT THE WRITER

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

HLN's 3 female hosts speak out against sexual harassment

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Three female anchors on cable's HLN channel saluted Gretchen Carlson, the former Fox News Channel newswoman who recently sued the network's chairman alleging years of sexual harassment. Carlson's lawsuit resulted in the departure of Roger Ailes, who had founded Fox News Channel two decades before.

"Maybe I'm lucky, but I haven't witnessed it and I haven't been subjected to it" during her career, said Robin Meade during a session Sunday at the Television Critics Association conference. "But it's infuriating that somebody would allegedly try to make you feel that your talent wasn't enough, that somehow you needed to supplement that."

"It takes a great deal of courage to do what she did," Michaela Pereira said. "I commend her for having the chutzpah to be able to speak up. She represents, unfortunately, a lot of women in the country that are dealing with that kind of discrimination in the workplace."

"I hope that what comes out of this is a really important conversation about what is important when you do your job, and what are the skills that matter," Erica Hill said. "I hope it makes everybody think."

Turner-owned HLN is returning to its news roots and boosting its live dayside lineup with this trio of women.

The new direction is represented by the continuing presence of Meade, who celebrates her 15th year on HLN and hosts the Atlanta-based "Morning Express."

Pereira recently launched a three-hour morning news program. "Michaela" is the only such national cable show to air from Los Angeles. Pereira was previously based in New York as a co-host of sister network CNN's "New Day."

Hill becomes a new addition with her two-hour daily news-and-interview program, as yet untitled, to originate from New York starting in September, HLN announced Sunday. Hill rejoined CNN and HLN earlier this summer after stints with CBS News and NBC News.

Their shows will carry out the new mission of HLN, offering a faster pace and wider range of news stories than does CNN, while skewing a bit younger and a bit more female.

"For each of us, with our shows, we have three different personalities," Pereira added. "That will come through in our broadcasts."

Norman Lear explores social inequality in Epix docuseries

AP

Solly Granatstein, left, and Norman Lear participate in the "America Divided" panel during the EPIX Television Critics Association summer press tour on Saturday, July 30, 2016, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Norman Lear, age 94 and a native New Yorker, thought he knew a few things about the obstacles of housing in the Big Apple.

But when he began exploring the subject for "America Divided," Lear said he was "horrified at how little I knew. Someone making a reasonable living with two children can no longer afford to live in New York City."

Not only is rising costs from real-estate gentrification displacing working-class and even middle-class residents, but racial discrimination is a problem despite a fair-housing law that makes it illegal. On his episode, Lear goes undercover to expose real-estate agents who give preferential treatment to him, as a white man, over a black man seeking the same apartment.

Those were the insights Lear helps bring to viewers in his chapter of "American Divided," an eight-story, five-part series that premieres on the Epix channel on Sept. 30.

Lear—along with one of the series' creators, Solly Granatstein—appeared before TV reporters Saturday to represent the seven fellow major figures who explore their own issues of inequality that, in each case, was close to their heart. These correspondents also include Amy Poehler, Zach Galifianakis, Common, Rosario Dawson, Peter Sarsgaard, Jesse Williams and America Ferrera. Additional issues they tackle include inequality in education, health care, labor, criminal justice and the political system.

Granatstein, whose credits include "60 Minutes" and the docuseries "Years of Living Dangerously," said he and his co-producers began with ideas for stories. "Then we targeted individuals who we knew were somehow connected with those issues."

He said more social problems and "substantive A-listers" were in the wings if the series scores a second season.

Lear, a legendary comedy titan, said this was his first experience in the role of a reporter.

What did he learn?

"I learned I'm a great reporter," he replied.

"It's true," Granatstein said.

Stunt driver school trains for Georgia's film industry needs

DAWSONVILLE, Ga. (AP)—Stuntwoman Natalie Govin found work easily in South Florida—until funds for the state's film incentives program recently went dry.

With more movies such as the "Furious" series and "Need for Speed" filmed in Georgia, Govin didn't want to get caught in Florida's drought. So she moved north to the neighboring state like many of her stunt colleagues.

"It was like a mass exodus," said Govin, who's been a stunt double on several films and TV shows including HBO's "Ballers" and "Rock of Ages." ''We had a very large community in south Florida, but things tapered off. So I had to move to Atlanta. I have to pay the bills."

But without work lined up since arriving in Georgia, Govin decided to sharpen her skills as a stunt driver. That decision is what brought her to Hollywood stunt driver Bobby Ore's school—Bobby Ore Motorsports—in the northern Georgia town of Dawsonville.

In Georgia, the television and film industry had an economic impact of $6 billion during the 2015 fiscal year with 248 productions filmed in the state, according to Gov. Nathan Deal. The state's tax incentives have no cap. In Florida, six the $296 million in allowable tax credits allocated through July 2016 were used up by 2014.

AP

Stunt driver and instructor Bobby Ore does a high speed reverse slide at Atlanta Motorsports Park Saturday, June 11, 2016, in Dawsonville, Ga.

The school, which opened in May, aims to train aspiring stunt drivers who want to break into the state's flourishing film business. The school trains not only stunt drivers, military personnel, law enforcement officers but also members of the public who qualify.

Ore founded the Motion Picture Driving School in 1996 after the constant demand for professional stunt driving training from the Screen Actors Guild. He said it was a "no brainer" businesswise to bring his school to Georgia after Atlanta Motorsports Park officials asked him to hold training sessions there once a month.

Ore said he recognized a significant shift in more films and television shows being brought to Georgia a couple years ago.

"This is a hotspot," said Ore, a former marine who specializes in vehicle dynamics and physics and has more than 40 years of experience in the film industry. His driving credits include "Being John Malkovich," ''Liar Liar," ''Gone in Sixty Seconds," ''Seabiscuit" and "Three Kings."

The school also holds classes at training facilities in Florida and California.

"There are a lot of stunt people moving to Atlanta and Georgia because of all the film business going on here," he said. "We want to give people a chance to take the school and help give people the basic foundation to become a stunt driver."

The excitement of working in Hollywood is not the only lure. Stunt performers can make between $3,200 and $3,400 per week, according to the Screen Actors Guild's theatrical wage table.

Students can learn the craft of pulling off stunts from 90-degree slides and 180-degree turns on mark along with learning how to parallel park while driving 80-miles per hour. They can also ride with Ore while he performs his trademark stunt of driving a car on two wheels.

For military and law enforcement personnel, courses such as counter-terrorist driver training and high speed reverse driving are offered.

Duke Jackson, a 20-year veteran stuntman who is now training for the first time as a stunt driver with Ore, has worked on numerous films and TV shows from "The Divergent Series: Allegiant," ''Captain America: Civil War" and "The Walking Dead" since moving from Los Angeles to Atlanta a few years ago.

"It's harder than it really looks," Jackson said.

Alba calls for end to gun violence at Teen Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The boisterous revelry of the Teen Choice Awards momentarily took on a somber tone Sunday when Jessica Alba called for an end to gun violence with a group of teenagers.

The actress was joined on stage at the fan-favorite ceremony by a group of teens related to the victims of shootings in such places as San Bernardino, California; Newton, Connecticut; and Orlando, Florida. She asked viewers to tweet the hashtag #StopTheViolence.

"It keeps happening, and it has to stop," Alba said.

It was otherwise business as usual at the Teen Choice Awards as co-hosts John Cena and Victoria Justice engaged in goofy stunts and helped hand out surfboard-shaped trophies in categories honoring film, TV, music and social media.

Justin Timberlake was bestowed with the ceremony's version of a lifetime achievement award. The singer-actor used his moment in the spotlight to honor late boxer Muhammad Ali and impart wisdom to the young crowd gathered at the Forum in Inglewood, California.

"As a relatively new dad and a former teen, I am here to say you will make mistakes along the way," he said. "You will fall down. I have many times—even Ali did."

The fan-favorite ceremony kicked off with Cena and Justice respectively dressed as Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. The gender-bending bit wasn't just for laughs. The pair encouraged teens to register to vote.

Other silly stunts included the wrestler-actor and singer-actress engaging in a 30-second selfie challenge, as well as Justice and Laverne Cox, her co-star in a remake of "The Rocky Horror Picture," squirting Cena with water bottles.

This year's winners included social media star Cameron Dallas, "Captain America" star Chris Evans, "Pretty Little Liars," ''Teen Wolf," Grant Gustin, Chloe Grace Moretz and the Dolan twins.

The two-hour ceremony included performances by "Empire" actress Serayah, Charlie Puth, Flo Rida and Bebe Rexha.

AP

Jessica Alba arrives at the Teen Choice Awards at the Forum on Sunday, July 31, 2016, in Inglewood, Calif.

George Strait to honor Jim Lauderdale at Americana Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country music star George Strait will honor singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale with a lifetime achievement award at this year's Americana Honors and Awards Show, to be held Sept. 21 in Nashville.

Strait has recorded more than a dozen of Lauderdale's songs. He will present him with the Wagonmaster Award, named for country music icon Porter Wagoner, it was announced Friday.

Lauderdale has been host of the annual awards show for the last 14 years. He was named artist of the year at the first Americana Honors and Awards Show in 2002.

AP

In this Sept. 22, 2015, file photo, country music legend George Strait poses for a portrait in Las Vegas. Strait will honor singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale with a lifetime achievement award at the Americana Honors and Awards Show on Sept. 21, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn.

Miss Teen USA winner to keep crown despite racist tweets

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The new Miss Teen USA will get to keep her crown despite an outcry over tweets she once wrote using racist language.

The Miss Universe Organization, which owns the Miss Teen USA pageant, issued a statement Sunday chastising Karlie Hay's words but also "supporting her continued growth."

After she was crowned Saturday night in Las Vegas, social media users found tweets containing the N-word linked to an account with Hay's name.

A screenshot of the four tweets from 2013 and 2014 has been making the rounds online.

Pageant officials, referencing an apology Hay posted to Twitter and Instagram, say the 18-year-old was going through personal struggles and regrets her words.

Hay, of Tomball, Texas, says she will use her platform to advocate for those affected by drug and alcohol abuse.

Poof! 'Ghostbusters' tweet cheering Clinton deleted

A tweet from Sony Pictures' "Ghostbusters" account that many interpreted as an endorsement of Hillary Clinton has disappeared as quickly as a phantom.

The studio tweeted "Booyah, we smashed your glass ceiling," on Thursday after Clinton became the first woman to lead a major U.S. political party. The message also had the hashtag "ImWithHer," a Clinton campaign motto.

By Friday, it had been deleted. A spokeswoman for Sony told the Los Angeles Times that the tweet "was never intended to be a political endorsement."

The all-female version of "Ghostbusters" stars Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones as a ghost-fighting foursome. It has become a lightning rod to some, in part for the gender of its paranormal pursuers. ***(AP)***

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton arrive for a rally at McGonigle Hall at Temple University in Philadelphia, Friday, July 29, 2016.

Woman must pick right time to reveal she can't have kids

DEAR ABBY: I'm an attractive 30-year-old woman just out of a five-year relationship. I am starting to date again, but I have a complication—I cannot have children. I am wondering when the right time to bring this up with the men I meet would be. After a few dates seems too soon; however, the men usually reveal their desire for a family during this time. What is the rule of thumb here?

SINGLE IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR SINGLE: The rule of thumb is: Honesty is the best policy. If someone tells you he wants a family, it would be dishonest not to tell him then that you won't be able to have children. However, if nothing is mentioned before, when you are becoming intimate and the subject of birth control is raised would be a logical time to speak up.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a city. Many of my friends live in the suburbs within commuting distance. Several of them commute daily, and there are many mass transit options running throughout the night. On a few occasions we have planned an outing in the city and, after the tickets are purchased, etc., one of them ("Carla") has casually stated, "I may need to spend the night at your house since it'll be late when we get back."

Abby, Carla knows the schedule of mass transit and knows what we've planned. How do I respond when she invites herself to spend the night? I have the room, but it's still a hassle having someone stay overnight.

CITY GIRL WITH COUNTRY FRIENDS

DEAR CITY GIRL: Assuming this is becoming a pattern with Carla, the time to bring this up is before you buy the tickets. The words to use are: "I would prefer that you don't stay over because I'm really not comfortable having overnight guests." And if she continues to suggest she wants to stay with you, stop inviting her to nighttime events.

DEAR ABBY: I find that I get asked far too often why I haven't bought a house yet. I'm 42, single and have a master's degree, but like lots of other people I had to go into debt to get it.

I'm not complaining about that. What bugs me is the invasive question I don't feel I should have to answer, usually asked by people whose parents helped them to buy a house. I don't come from a rich family, and it feels like people are flaunting their privilege when they ask me. Duh, I don't have $20,000 for a down payment. But I shouldn't have to say that.

How can I respond to this question while not being rude or actually answering it? Better yet, how do I respond in such a way that people stop asking?

IN DEBT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR IN DEBT: This reply should do the trick: "There are many reasons why, and it's complicated. When and if I do decide to buy, I'll let you know."

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter and I disagree about whether it's all right to hold the door open when the air conditioning is running on high to keep the house cool. She'll hold the door open while standing in the doorway talking to her friends who drive up in a car. In the meantime, I am paying for the AC to run full blast. Please give us some guidance.

ANONYMOUS MOM IN RALEIGH

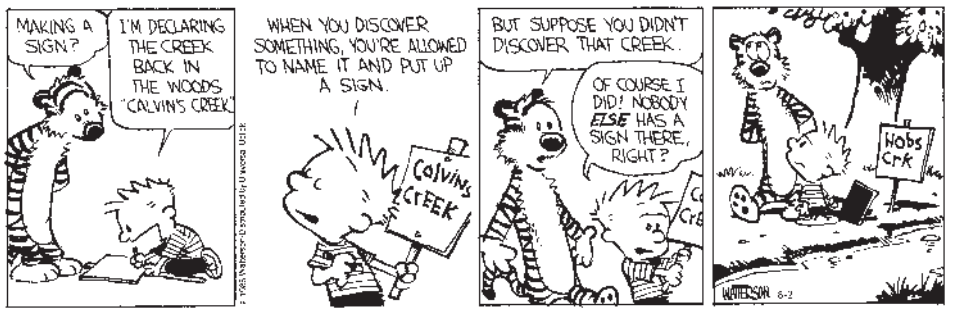
DEAR MOM: I'll try. Rather than venture into the physics of how air conditioners work, may I suggest that because your daughter lives with you and you are paying the bills, she should have enough respect for you to do as you ask.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

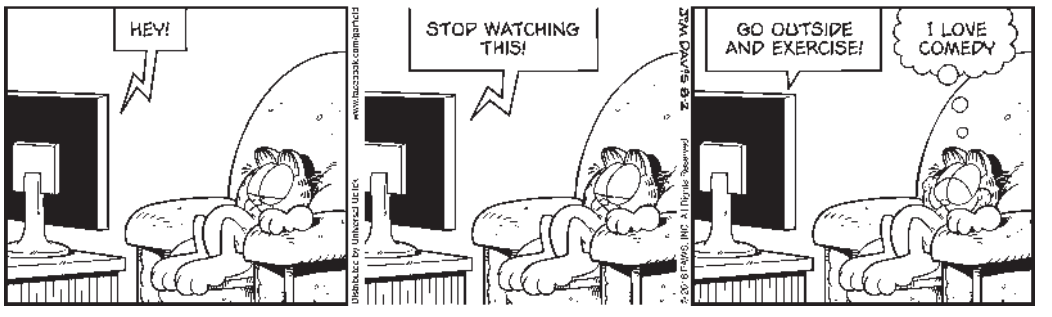
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MAKING A SIGN?
I'M DECLARING THE CREEK BACK IN THE WOODS "CALVIN'S CREEK."
WHEN YOU DISCOVER SOMETHING, YOU'RE ALLOWED TO NAME IT AND PUT UP A SIGN.
CALVINS CREEK
BUT SUPPOSE YOU DIDN'T DISCOVER THAT CREEK.
OF COURSE I DID! NOBODY ELSE HAS A SIGN THERE, RIGHT?
HOBBS CRK
WATTERSON 8-2

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



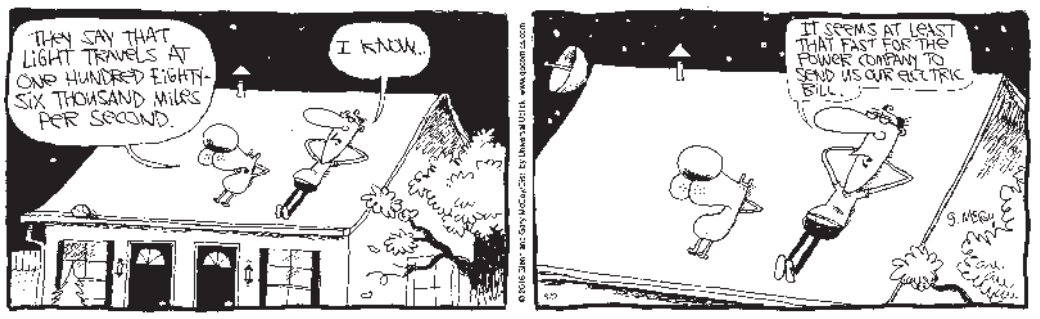
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D LET YOU GET A TATTOO, DID YOU?
WHAT? NOT ME! YOU!
ME?
YEAH! THEY'RE COOL!
CLAYTON, I'M NOT A "RAD DUDE."
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WELL, FOR STARTERS, HE JUST SAID "RAD DUDE"
I KNOW. I WAS CHALKING IT UP TO HIS ADVANCED AGE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THEY SAY THAT LIGHT TRAVELS AT ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND MILES PER SECOND.
I KNOW..
IT SEEMS AT LEAST THAT FAST FOR THE POWER COMPANY TO SEND US OUR ELECTRIC BILL.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Canal zone
5 Insult, slangily
8 Beams
12 Capri, for one
13 Sch. URL ender
14 Oil cartel
15 Shower unit
17 — good example
18 Charged bit
19 Magic potion
21 Marble type
24 Party cheese
25 Whip
26 Convict unfairly
30 Literary rep.
31 "Yippee!"
32 Fam. member
33 Slickers and galoshes
35 Earth
36 Sciences' partner
37 Filch
38 Third-largest island
41 Brit's restroom
42 Columbus' home
43 Train components
48 Aware of
49 Doctrine
50 Shoelace snarl
51 Drench
52 Upper limit
53 Luke's teacher

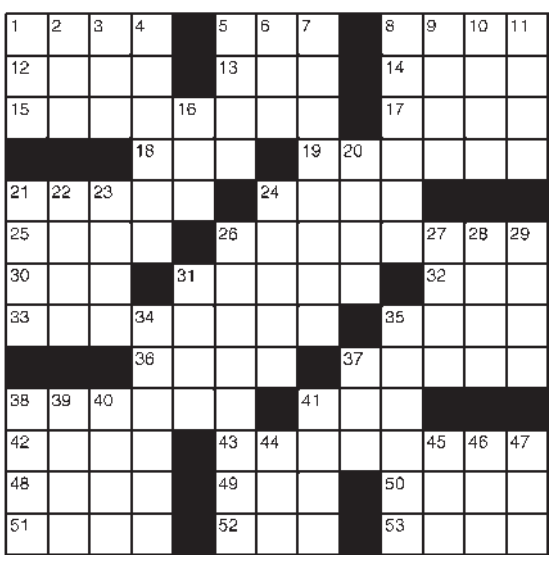
DOWN

1 Knightly address
2 "Born in the —"
3 Yalie
4 Pinnacle
5 Bruce of "Nebraska"
6 Altar affirmative
7 A Great Lake
8 More upbeat
9 Pinnacle
10 Bigfoot's cousin
11 Cicatrix
16 Fawn's mama
20 Easter bloom
21 Winged
22 Infatuated
23 Italian wine region
24 Rum cakes
26 Orator's skill
27 Reed instrument
28 Met melody
29 Ken or Barbie
31 Meanie
34 "— of the North" (1922 film)
35 Thickset
37 Costa del —
38 Greets the villain
39 "It can't be!"
40 Actress Moreno
41 Walk unevenly
44 Simile center
45 Yucatan year
46 Scepter
47 Depot (Abbr.)

Solution time: 22 mins.

F	I	M			R	A	M	P	S		W	A	R
L	E	A			E	L	I	C			A	M	A
F	I	R	E	W	A	T	E	R			T	E	N
			D	A	S		T	A	L	E	N	T
A	T	D	L	S	K		S	P	A	R			
S	I	O			I	A	T		S	I	D	E	S
S	E	W	N		N	O	P		T	O	G	A	
T	E	N	E			N	I	A		W	A	G	
			U	N	U	M		G	H	A	N	D	E
P	A	N	A	M	A		P	A	R				
A	I	D			U	N	D	E	R	F	I	R	E
T	R	C			L	O	R	N	A		S	E	C
H	E	R			R	Y	S				H	A	

Yesterday's answer 8-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hallie Eisenberg, 24; Sam Worthington, 40; Kevin Smith, 46; Mary-Louise Parker, 52.

Happy Birthday: Consider what you have to offer the world and do your best to shine brightly among your peers. Do what makes the most sense to you, but don't force your views on others. Once you identify your direction and head toward your destination, everyone around you will notice. Your effort will draw the support you need to carry on. Your numbers are 4, 10, 24, 26, 32, 36, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Money matters can be resolved. Negotiate exactly what you want to see happen. Make intelligent and emotional arguments to help encourage the kind of response you want to receive. Romance will improve your day. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't let disagreements fester. Discuss different options and solutions with others before the situation gets blown out of proportion. Show an appreciation for what others have to offer. Teamwork will lead to success. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Show concern and offer helpful suggestions to others, but don't try to take over any projects that don't belong to you. Getting together with a friend or loved one will ease your stress and help you put your life in perspective. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Opportunities will develop through someone who has a very different lifestyle than you. Observe, ask questions and do what you can to adapt your current situation to better suit your needs. An open mind will lead to an opportunity. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get out and do something constructive. Keep busy and engage in physical activities that will help you build your strength. Discipline and hard work will lead to improved health and personal appearance. Make romance a priority. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Discuss your concerns about older relatives with someone who can help you make a difficult decision. A chance to get out and try something new will improve your attitude and give you something to look forward to on a regular basis. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your ability to make the most of whatever you are given to work with will turn you into a go-to person. A romantic gesture will bring about positive changes that will help you make important lifestyle changes. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Jealousy will not help you face a situation. Whether it's you or someone else who is acting insecure, it's best to stifle such behavior before it causes any real problems. Keep the peace and you will avoid isolation. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Avoid being frivolous. Too much of anything will make you look bad. Engage in something that will bring in cash. Romance doesn't have to be expensive. Spending time with someone you love is more important than spending money. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look for a bargain and be ready to barter. Don't feel the need to conform to what someone else decides to do. Rely on your instincts and follow whatever path suits you best. Be cautious when handling financial affairs. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Stay focused on improving your professional partnerships. It's important to listen carefully to what others think if you want to quickly come up with a plan that will satisfy everyone. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Difficulties or disagreements will crop up while traveling. It's best to focus on a creative project or helping someone who has something to offer in return. Balance and equality should be your aim. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are proactive, daring and confident. You crave knowledge and experience.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	6	3	9	8		
	2						4	
		8				3		
	6		3		4		7	
	1		5		2		6	
		3				5		
	4						1	
		5	4	1	7	9		

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	8	6	4	5	2	3	9	7
4	3	9	1	6	7	2	5	8
2	5	7	9	3	8	6	1	4
5	2	1	6	7	9	8	4	3
9	6	4	8	1	3	7	2	5
8	7	3	5	2	4	1	6	9
6	4	5	7	8	1	9	3	2
7	9	2	3	4	6	5	8	1
3	1	8	2	9	5	4	7	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HOW DO YOU TAKE YOUR STEAK? Solution: 4 letters

E	C	H	F	L	A	M	E	M	F	R	E	S	H	D
R	R	S	E	R	E	T	N	E	C	T	B	O	N	E
U	I	U	O	R	I	M	E	A	J	C	U	N	B	L
T	S	R	T	U	B	B	O	T	U	E	T	E	R	B
X	P	B	Q	A	T	S	E	N	I	F	C	D	O	R
E	Y	S	R	S	R	D	S	Y	C	R	H	L	W	A
T	E	R	C	A	I	E	O	A	E	E	E	O	N	M
M	T	A	E	H	E	R	P	O	U	P	R	G	L	P
E	E	M	I	L	A	Ⓢ	L	M	R	C	U	K	A	I
D	N	A	E	L	E	R	Ⓣ	O	E	S	E	L	O	N
I	D	T	L	A	S	A	R	Ⓤ	I	T	H	I	C	K
U	E	I	S	I	B	L	U	E	Ⓒ	N	P	O	R	K
M	R	O	D	A	R	K	B	H	D	E	K	O	O	C
G	N	E	R	E	D	N	U	O	R	E	C	I	P	E
K	S	I	R	B	S	P	I	C	E	S	T	R	I	P

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Angus, Beef, Blue, Brisk, Brown, Brush, Butcher, Center, Charred, Coal, Cooked, Crispy, Cuts, Dark, Flame, Fresh, Golden, Grill, Herbs, Juice, Ketchup, Lean, Lemon, Lime, Marbled, Meat, Medium, Mesquite, Oil, Outdoors, Perfect, Pink, Pork, Preheat, Recipe, Ribeye, Round, Rub, Salt, Sauce, Sear, Season, Sides, Sirloin, Spices, Strip, T-Bone, Temperature, Tender, Texture, Thick

Yesterday's Answer: Rowing

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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RFP16-CHCC/KCHC-002

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: August 02, 2016 **TIME: 9:00 AM**

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
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/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
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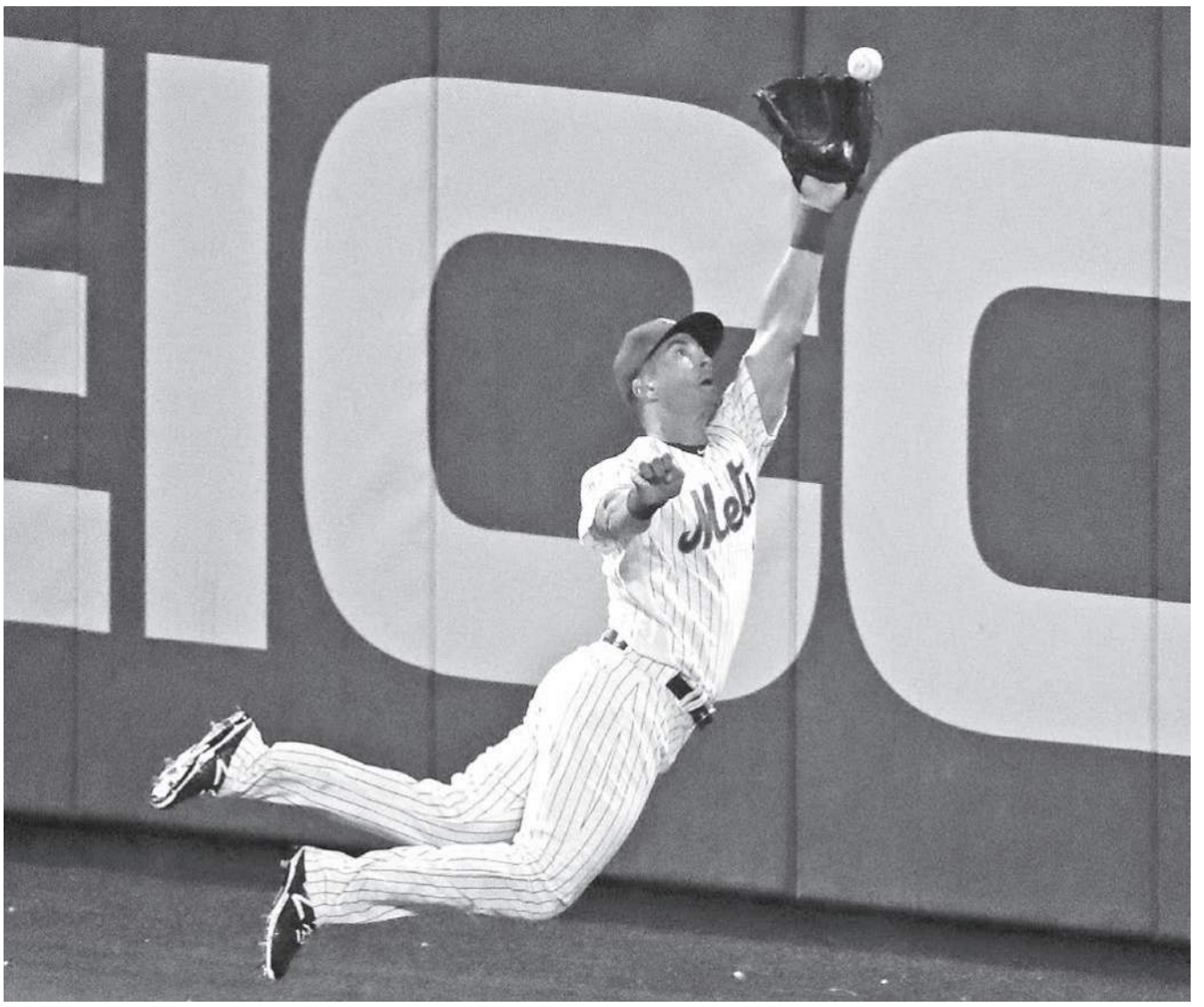

AP
New York Mets' Justin Ruggiano, stretches to catch a ball hit for a double by Colorado Rockies' Carlos Gonzalez during the fourth inning of a baseball game Saturday, July 30, 2016, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Slipping in the standings and on the cusp of getting wiped out by Colorado again, the New York Mets got a huge swing from Neil Walker in the seventh inning.

Walker hit a go-ahead, three-run homer that rallied the Mets past the Rockies 6-4 on Sunday and prevented a season sweep.

The switch-hitter also had an RBI triple, extending his recent tear at the plate, and Jeurys Familia rebounded from consecutive blown saves. New York sustained another costly injury, this one to shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera, but snapped a four-game skid that matched its longest this season.

"It's a huge win for us," manager Terry Collins said. "Hopefully it gets us going a little bit and we kind of lighten up and loosen up a little bit, start swinging the bats better."

Alejandro De Aza and rookie Brandon Nimmo each contributed a run-scoring single as the third-place Mets finally generated some offense—and a little momentum heading into this week's Subway Series against the retooling Yankees. The first two games are at Citi Field, with the final two across town in the Bronx.

Playing without ailing slugger Yoenis Cespedes, New York won for only the second time in 10 home games and averted a four-game sweep to finish 1-6 against the Rockies (52-53) this year. Before that, the Mets took 11 straight from Colorado—including a 7-0 mark last season.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Jonathan Schoop singled home the go-ahead run in the 12th inning and the Baltimore Orioles ended a season-worst five-game losing streak, beating Toronto to reclaim the AL East lead.

Adam Jones hit his 20th homer later in the 12th, a three-run shot that helped the Orioles avoid a three-game sweep and move a half-game ahead of the Blue Jays.

Mychael Givens (8-1) worked one inning for the victory as the Orioles won for the first time in six games at Toronto.

Rays 5, Yankees 3

In St. Petersburg, Rookie left-hander Blake Snell (3-4) struck out nine over 5 1/3 innings, Luke Maile had a key two-run single against Michael Pineda (5-10) and Tampa Bay completed a three-game sweep.

After winning eight of 10, New York lost its fourth straight game and fell to .500 at 52-52. Before the game, the Yankees traded reliever Andrew Miller to Cleveland for touted outfielder Clint Frazier and three others.

Indians 8, Athletics 0

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber (10-8) limited Oakland to five hits in seven innings, Mike Napoli hit a two-run homer and Cleveland completed a three-game sweep.

Three relievers completed the six-hitter.

Sonny Gray (5-10) gave up seven runs and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Tigers 11, Astros 0

In Detroit, James McCann capped a six-run first inning with his first career grand slam and Miguel Cabrera homered twice and drove in four runs, helping Detroit complete a three-game sweep and stretch its winning streak to six.

Mike Pelfrey (4-9) allowed four hits in five innings and has given up one run or none in five of his last eight starts.

Marlins 5, Cardinals 4

In Miami, pinch-hitter Derek Dietrich had an RBI triple off Matt Bowman (1-3) with two outs in the ninth inning, earning Miami a split of the four-game series.

A.J. Ramos (1-0) pitched around a walk in the ninth.

Acquired from San Diego on Friday, Miami starter Andrew Cashner allowed two runs—one earned run—and four hits in six innings, including Greg Garza's homer.

Braves 2, Phillies 1

In Atlanta, Jeff Francoeur hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Andrew Bailey (3-1) in the seventh inning.

Mauricio Cabrera (2-0), the fourth of six Atlanta pitchers, pitched a one-hit seventh, and Jim Johnson pitched a hitless ninth for his sixth save.

Brewers 4, Pirates 2

In Milwaukee, Jonathan Lucroy waved his helmet to acknowledge a standing ovation at Miller Park and, in what could be his final appearance for Milwaukee, flied out as a pinch hitter in the eighth inning.

Lucroy turned down a trade to AL Central-leading Cleveland over the weekend. But other teams want the All-Star catcher before Monday's deal deadline, and he has a limited no-trade clause.

Twins 6, White Sox 4

In Minneapolis, Brian Dozier homered twice and Ervin Santana (4-9) allowed three runs—one earned—in six innings

Kennys Vargas hit a two-run homer as part of a three-run first inning for Minnesota, which has won three of four games.

Rangers 5, Royals 3

In Arlington, Mitch Moreland homered for the fifth time in his last five starts and Lucas Harrell (3-2) won in his Texas as the Rangers finished a four-game sweep of the World Series champions.

Harrell gave up three runs and four hits—including solo home runs to Eric Hosmer and Drew Butera—in six innings. The 31-year-old right-hander was acquired from Atlanta last Wednesday to help the Rangers' injury-riddled starting rotation.

Red Sox 5, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Dustin Pedroia hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off Huston Street (3-2) with two outs in the ninth inning and Xander Bogaerts followed with another home run.

Street (3-2) entered with a 3-0 lead and gave up Mookie Betts' RBI single before Pedroia homered.

Giants 3, Nationals 1

In San Francisco, Matt Cain (3-6) threw five hitless innings for his 100th career victory, struck out five and walked four, leaving after 93 pitches. He handed off to George Kontos, who allowed a leadoff single to Bryce Harper in the sixth.

Santiago Casilla pitched the ninth for his 24th save. NL West-leading San Francisco has won two straight since losing 11 of 13 following the All-Star break.

Reds 3, Padres 2

In San Diego, Homer Bailey (1-0)) returned from forearm and elbow surgeries and allowed two runs, four hits and three walks in 5 2/3 innings. Tony Cingrani worked the ninth for his 13th save.

Paul Clemens (1-2) made his second start with the Padres but was left after 4 2/3 innings because of a sore back.

Dodgers 14, Diamondbacks 3

In Los Angeles, Yasmani Grandal and Corey Seager hit three-run home runs and Joc Pederson added a two-run shot.

Louis Coleman (2-1) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings. Patrick Corbin (4-10) gave up six runs and eight hits over 5 1/3 innings for Arizona.

Yankees admit MLB has changed, start to retool for future

NEW YORK (AP)—Watching a second straight loss to last-place Tampa Bay convinced the New York Yankees it was time to shift more fully into sell mode. So late Saturday night, owner Hal Steinbrenner gave the go-ahead.

Six days after trading closer Aroldis Chapman to the Chicago Cubs for four prospects, New York dealt reliever Andrew Miller to Cleveland for four more.

"We're trying to get back to a situation where we can build an uber team and a sustainable one," general manager Brian Cashman said. "So we'll see where it takes us, but that's the effort that we've got going on here, and I think fans should be excited by that."

New York's 5-3 defeat Sunday completed a weekend sweep that left the Yankees (52-52) seven games behind AL East-leading Baltimore and 5 1/2 games back for the AL's second wild card, with three other teams to overcome.

Seeking its elusive 28th championship, New York hasn't won a postseason game since Derek Jeter shattered an ankle in the 2012 AL Championship Series, a night that looking back ended an era of greatness that included titles in 1996, `98, `99, `00 and `09.

While the Yankees kept adding free agents around the core group of Jeter, Mariano Rivera, Bernie Williams, Andy Pettitte and Jorge Posada, amateur drafts yielded relatively little and Major League Baseball restricted the Yankees and other high-revenue teams with taxes on high payrolls and penalties for exceeding defined thresholds on amateur spending.

Cashman all but admitted the Yankees were slow to adapt.

"The chessboard that's lined up that we're playing is not the same chessboard that we were playing back when I just started in the late `80s," he said. "It's a recognition of how the industry's completely different today and the operating standards are completely different today, and there's just a sounder recognition of that. And if you want to become a super team, there's certain ways to go about that that you have to strongly consider. And although they may be tough decisions, the one thing the Yankees have always stood for and do stand for is the effort in trying to become a super team."

Convinced they are unlikely to reach the playoffs this year, the Yankees are pivoting to the future. New York hopes to get under the luxury tax threshold by no later than 2018, which would put the team in prime position to spend again after that season. Bryce Harper, Jose Fernandez, Manny Machado and Clayton Kershaw are among the stars who could be on the market that fall.

Walker wins marathon at PGA Championship

SPRINGFIELD, N.J. (AP)—Jimmy Walker did everything required of a major champion on the longest final day in 64 years at a PGA Championship.

And then Jason Day made him do a little bit more.

Walker was standing over an 8-foot birdie putt on the par-5 17th hole Sunday when he heard a roar that caused him to twice back off the putt. It was Day, the defending champion and world's No. 1 player, down to his last chance and delivering with a 2-iron that landed in front of the pin and stopped 15 feet away for eagle.

Walker answered, like he had done all day, with a birdie for a three-shot lead.

Moments later, another roar.

Day made the eagle putt, and the lead was down to one.

"There was nothing easy about the day - really about the week, for that matter," Walker said. "Especially coming down the last hole."

He went for the 18th green knowing it was his easiest chance for the par he needed to win. The outcome was still in doubt until Walker missed the green to the right, pitched out of deep rough to 35 feet and rolled his first putt about 3 feet past the cup.

Walker calmly made it to capture the PGA Championship, ending a long and wet week at Baltusrol, and still having just enough strength left to hoist the 37-pound Wanamaker Trophy.

"He really put it on me to make a par," Walker said. "Sometimes pars are hard. But we got it."

That par gave him a 3-under 67 and a one-shot victory and made the 37-year-old from Texas a major champion. Even with the silver trophy at his side, Walker still had a hard time letting that sink in.

Because of rain, the 36-hole final was the longest in PGA Championship history since Jim Turnesa won his 36-hole match in 1952. Walker at least had time to rest in his travel bus —he's a frequent neighbor of Day on the PGA Tour—and get right back out into the final round. Walker, who shot a 68 in the morning for a one-shot lead over Day, didn't make a bogey over the last 28 holes.

Day, trying to join Tiger Woods as the only back-to-back winners of the PGA Championship in stroke play, came out to the 18th green with his son to watch the finish and quickly found Walker. "Great stuff, mate," he said.

"It was nice to get the eagle, just to try and make Jimmy think about it," Day said after a 67. "But obviously, Jimmy just played too good all day."

AP

Jimmy Walker hits from a sand trap on the 10th hole during the third round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., Sunday, July 31, 2016.

In a most peculiar final day at a major, the PGA Championship allowed for preferred lies—that never happens in a major—because of nearly 4 inches of rain during the week that drenched the Lower Course. Desperate to beat the clock and avoid a second straight Monday finish at Baltusrol, the pairings stayed the same for the final round.

Walker and Day were playing with occasional mud on their golf balls on the back nine of the third round Sunday morning as some players behind them were able to lift, clean and place their golf balls in short grass in the fourth round.

But it ended on a happy note for Walker. He is a major champion, completing a sweep of first-time winners in the majors this year. Better yet: It moved him from No. 29 to No. 4 in the Ryder Cup standings, all but assuring him a spot on the team.

He finished at 14-under 266, one shot from David Toms' record score in the 2001 PGA Championship.

Walker began the back nine by holing a 45-foot bunker shot on No. 10 and making a 30-foot birdie putt on No. 11. The final birdie on the 17th was the most important because he had a cushion. And thanks to Day, he needed it.

"Two-putting from that is pretty difficult, especially trying to go for your first major," Day said. "But he's handled himself pretty good."

British Open champion Henrik Stenson, trying to join Ben Hogan as the only players to win back-to-back majors at age 40, faded with a double bogey on the 15th hole.

"It was a long day. I never felt like I brought my 'A' game," said Stenson, who started the final round two shots behind and closed with a 71. "I think I hit more poor shots in the two rounds today than in the previous six or seven rounds combined."

For the second straight major, this became a duel over the final hour.

Day pulled within one shot with a 20-foot birdie putt at No. 11, but he never had another birdie chance closer than 25 feet until the two par 5s at the end. Even so, the Australian battled to the end with the second of two 2-irons at 18 leading him to shout, "Get back there!" And it did.

Thanks to Walker holding his nerves, it just wasn't enough.

"God, just to be in it and be there and have a chance and then to finish it off is just ... it's so gratifying," Walker said.

Meanwhile, the third and fourth rounds were going on at the same time and with different rules. There was so much rain that there was a worker with a squeegee positioned near every green. The final putts were made in what some would call the dark. There was no re-pairing after the third round and the greens weren't even rolled, let along cut. Oh yeah, on Friday they put the cup on No. 10 in the wrong place.

This was the PGA Championship. This was a major. This was an odd major.

The leaders after the third round would always be paired together for the final round but not in this rain-delayed tournament. Day said he would have liked to be playing with Walker.

"That would have been nice," Day said. "But under the circumstances, that's just how they work."

Ten players didn't even hit a golf ball Saturday—that meant Walker and Day and eight others played 36 holes Sunday—and 37 others returned Sunday to complete the third round.

To add a little more confusion, the PGA of America decided that the fourth round would be played with lift, clean and place rules in effect for balls in the fairway. That's the first time in a major tournament the preferred lie rules was put in effect. Guess that's one more oddity for the 98th PGA Championship.

Rams' Gurley is healthy, hungry heading into 2nd NFL camp

IRVINE, Calif. (AP)—Todd Gurley watched most of his first NFL training camp from the sidelines. He would do a few individual drills on his healing knee while his Rams teammates worked together.

Just about everything has changed in the past year for Gurley and the Rams. For starters, their training camp sideline is no longer in the Midwest, and Gurley isn't on it.

"It just feels good to just be able to be out here," Gurley said after the Rams' opening workout of camp at UC Irvine. "First day (of last year's training camp), I wasn't doing anything. I probably wasn't doing anything until the end of training camp."

The second-year running back is in the thick of practice this summer for Los Angeles, with no bigger physical problems than normal fatigue as he works on a worthy sequel to his sensational rookie season.

There's no need for patience with Gurley during this training camp in Orange County, yet the Rams intend to be cautious with the most important piece of their quest to improve the NFL's least productive offense last season.

"This is Todd's first full offseason program, so that's different for him," coach Jeff Fisher said. "He's in great shape right now. (Gurley will get) a few carries here and there during the preseason games. He's going to get his workload in practice, more so than he will in the games. That just makes sense to us."

After Gurley's remarkable success last season, it was easy to forget the risk taken by the Rams when they chose him with the 10th overall pick. The speedy Georgia back tore a ligament in his knee in the previous November, and he wasn't fully recovered from surgery when the draft rolled around.

The Rams were patient with Gurley, who couldn't participate much in the Rams' 2015 offseason program. He practiced only without pads in the late stages of training camp, and he didn't play until the third game of the regular season.

Gurley took off in October with four straight 125-yard games, and he remained a steady contributor until sitting out the season finale. He was named the NFL's offensive rookie of the year with 1,106 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns in 13 games.

"The guys were able to see what I was able to do last year," Gurley said. "So just being able to take (a bigger) role on, and just being able to tell myself 'OK, if you do stuff good, the team is going to roll off that.' I'm just trying to go out there and create as much energy for the whole offense."

In camp, Gurley will work on minimizing fumbles—he only had three on 229 carries—and improving his pass-catching skills after making just 21 receptions last year.

Although Gurley doesn't even turn 22 years old until Wednesday, the Rams already count on him to be a leader, a prolific tailback and a good influence on Jared Goff, the No. 1 pick in the draft. Gurley and the new quarterback have been texting since draft day, building their rapport on and off the field.

The Rams clearly intend to run the ball extensively this year. Gurley might also shoulder a larger load of the carries in the absence of Tre Mason, last season's backup, who has cut off contact with the team after an offseason filled with legal troubles.

Los Angeles seems likely to sign another running back to join veteran Benny Cunningham as Gurley's backups, but Gurley is ready to take on most of the work in September if necessary.

"Obviously, I know we're going to run the ball," Gurley said. "I'm a running back, so if you give me the ball, I'll be happy. I'll just come out here, work hard and whatever they call in the game, I'll be happy with it."

Expert to Rio athletes: 'Don't put your head under water'

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Just days ahead of the Olympic Games the waterways of Rio de Janeiro are as filthy as ever, contaminated with raw human sewage teeming with dangerous viruses and bacteria, according to a 16-month-long study commissioned by The Associated Press.

Not only are some 1,400 athletes at risk of getting violently ill in water competitions, but the AP's tests indicate that tourists also face potentially serious health risks on the golden beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana.

The AP's survey of the aquatic Olympic and Paralympic venues has revealed consistent and dangerously high levels of viruses from the pollution, a major black eye on Rio's Olympic project that has set off alarm bells among sailors, rowers and open-water swimmers.

The first results of the study published over a year ago showed viral levels at up to 1.7 million times what would be considered worrisome in the United States or Europe. At those concentrations, swimmers and athletes who ingest just three teaspoons of water are almost certain to be infected with viruses that can cause stomach and respiratory illnesses and more rarely heart and brain inflammation - although whether they actually fall ill depends on a series of factors including the strength of the individual's immune system.

Since the AP released the initial results last July, athletes have been taking elaborate precautions to prevent illnesses that could potentially knock them out of the competition, including preventatively taking antibiotics, bleaching oars and donning plastic suits and gloves in a bid to limit contact with the water.

AP

Houses stand next to the heavily polluted shore of Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, July 30, 2016. Just days ahead of the Olympic Games, the waterways of Rio are as filthy as ever, contaminated with raw human sewage teeming with dangerous viruses and bacteria, according to a 16-month-long study commissioned by The Associated Press.

But antibiotics combat bacterial infections, not viruses. And the AP investigation found that infectious adenovirus readings—tested with cell cultures and verified with molecular biology protocols—turned up at nearly 90 percent of the test sites over 16 months of testing.

"That's a very, very, very high percentage," said Dr. Valerie Harwood, Chair of the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of South Florida. "Seeing that level of human pathogenic virus is pretty much unheard of in surface waters in the U.S. You would never, ever see these levels because we treat our waste water. You just would not see this."

While athletes take precautions, what about the 300,000-500,000 foreigners expected to descend on Rio for the Olympics? Testing at several of the city's world-famous beaches has shown that in addition to persistently high viral loads, the beaches often have levels of bacterial markers for sewage pollution that would be cause for concern abroad—and sometimes even exceed Rio state's lax water safety standards.

In light of the AP's findings, Harwood had one piece of advice for travelers to Rio: "Don't put your head under water."

Swimmers who cannot heed that advice stand to ingest water through their mouths and noses and therefore risk "getting violently ill," she said.

Danger is lurking even in the sand. Samples from the beaches at Copacabana and Ipanema revealed high levels of viruses, which recent studies have suggested can pose a health risk—particularly to babies and small children.

"Both of them have pretty high levels of infectious adenovirus," said Harwood, adding that the virus could be particularly hazardous to babies and toddlers who play in the sand.

"You know how quickly an infant can get dehydrated and have to go to the hospital," she added. "That's the scariest point to me."

Dr. Fernando Spilki, the virologist and coordinator of the molecular microbiology laboratory at Feevale University in southern Brazil whom AP commissioned to conduct the water tests, says the survey revealed no appreciable improvement in Rio's blighted waters—despite cleanup promises stretching back decades.

"Unfortunately, what we've seen throughout all this time is that there is a variation in the levels of contamination, but it fluctuates much more as a result of climactic conditions than due to any measures that may have been taken to try to remove this contamination," said Spilki, one of Brazil's most respected virologists.

The most contaminated points are the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, where Olympic rowing will take place, and the Gloria Marina, the starting point for the sailing races. In March, 2015, sampling at the Lagoon revealed an astounding 1.73 billion adenoviruses per liter; this June, adenovirus readings were lower but still hair-raising at 248 million adenoviruses per liter. By comparison, in California, viral readings in the thousands per liter are enough to set off alarm bells.

Despite a project aimed at preventing raw sewage from flowing directly into the Gloria Marina through storm drains, the waters remain just as contaminated. The first sampling there, in March, 2015, showed over 26 million adenoviruses per liter; this June, over 37 million adenoviruses per liter were detected.

While local authorities including Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes have acknowledged the failure of the city's water cleanup efforts, calling it a "lost chance" and a "shame," Olympic officials continue to insist Rio's waterways will be safe for athletes and visitors. The local organizing committee did not respond to multiple requests for comment, though it has previously said bacterial testing conducted by Rio state authorities has shown the aquatic venues to be within state guidelines.

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while developing their skills in various sports," Villaflor added.

Meanwhile, the annual summer program got good feedbacks from parents, participants, and volunteers.

"I learned a lot from the camp. My skills improved and I was able to meet new friends and enjoy their company. I will be back for next year's camp because I wanted to learn more. I am looking forward to playing in a real game (soccer) and becoming a better player," 10-year-old Angelbert Olaes said.

"I've been looking for this kind of program and this is the only one I could find on the island. This is helpful, not only to my son, Austin, but also to me because I am able to continue working while my kid is enjoying the summer, joining different activities," said Grace Fuhrman.

Julia, whose son Christian is also a participant in the camp, said having the summer program allows her child to stay away from watching too much TV or playing in his Kindel.

"I will definitely enroll him again in next year's program because he really enjoys playing sports with other kids," Julia stated in the comment form provided by SSS.

"I am glad that we have this program because it provides my kids a lot of summer activities at no cost," said Renea Raho, who had two children (Tristan and Jack) enrolled in the program.

Rodwealth Espana, one of the volunteers at the camp, said it's nice to see kids enjoy every activity under the program and he is happy that he also gets to spend his free time reaching out to children. "You can see from their faces the excitement every time you teach them new things. Though sometimes they are too noisy, once you talk to them and tell them to listen to you, they will keep quiet and follow your instructions," said Espana, who has been working as a volunteer at the camp since 2013.

FERRER

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riquez (1:32:29).

Meanwhile, a beginners bike contest (10K) also took place in the Triathlon Association of the CNMI-hosted weekend event.

In the men's 10K, Angel Llaga came out on top after completing the course that had bikers heading to the Last Command Post and Banzai Cliff and back to Mariana Resort in 15:40. Ferdinand Ramos and Ivan Sitchon rounded out the Top 3 after posting 18:42 and 18:50, respectively.

Jan Matthew Millo (20:21), Sean Paul Dizon (23:00), Mark Jainier Chavez (25:03), Justin Loma (27:16), Jan Millo (27:28), Maximus Gabloza (29:40), and Angelo Nabaunag (37:20) were the other finishers in the men's division.

In the women's field, Kiana Joyce Valencia defeated six other participants in her division after timing in at 17:33. Valencia won over Casey Huliganya (18:45), Kamil Loste (25:42), Andrei Kaitlyn Chavez (25:10), Nicole Loste (25:40), Katherine Alcantara (27:30), and Kin Loste (30:30).

Besides the bike races, TRAC also held triathlon and run competitions and results will be reported later this week. The summer sporstfest was backed by Bridge Capital, LLC, Best Sunshine International, T Galleria/DFS, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Coca-Cola, and Powerade. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

TITANIUM

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eighth inning.

At the top of the eight, Ian Norita kept the Falcons in the game as he reached off a Titanium error at first base with two outs. Bradley Lieto then flied out at second base to end the inning. Still down, but definitely not out, the Falcons forced Titanium to a 1-2-3 inning at the bottom eighth. Leadoff batter Brian Camacho and Juan Rabauliman flied out to center and first base, respectively, while Ian Lizama was struck out.

At the top of the ninth, Barry Sunumai led off for the Falcons, walked, and made it to second after third batter A.J. Evangelista singled. Earlier, second batter Franklie flied out to center field for the first out, while Sunumai and Evangelista were eventually left stranded at first and second after Titanium pitcher Jhace Palacios struck out Cameron Towai and J.J. Lifoifoi flied out to first.

Jhace Palacios pitched in no relief in their crucial victory, allowing seven hits, while fanning out seven.

Meanwhile, Titanium played back-to-back games as it collided against the Aces in another playoff match last Friday to determine the No. 3 and 4 rankings in the playoffs and the semis pairings.

The Aces went on to take the No. 3 seeding following a 6-3 triumph over Titanium.

A four-run bottom of the eighth inning lifted the Best Sunshine International-backed Aces to victory.

The bottom of the eighth began with the game in a standoff, 2-all, as Titanium forced the tie when Jerald Cabrera scored off their foe's error at the top. Luis Iguel run off brother Juan's triple then broke the deadlock, while the former made it a 4-2 advantage when he also reached off Verlance Secharmidal's single. Secharmidal scored, too, off a wild pitch, while John Tudela's single brought Lamarc Iguel home and gave the Aces a 6-2 lead.

Joe Palacios relieved Bill Camacho on the mound to stop the bleeding for Titanium as the former got back-to-back strikeouts to end the inning and keep his team in the game. The Aces were called for the first out earlier when leadoff batter Angel Falig flied out to center.

Joe Palacios went on to bat, too for Titanium at the top of the ninth, but grounded out at first for the team's second out. Bill Camacho, who singled and advanced to second off a wild pitch, went down first when he was beaten to third. Despite the two quick outs, Titanium did not give up and an RBI single from Jerald Cabrera moved the team within three.

Cabrera went on to make it to second, while Ton Guerrero walked and marched all the way to the third. However, the two Titanium runners were left stranded when Tudela struck out Brian Camacho to end the game in favor of the Aces.

Tudela worked the mound for nine innings and recorded eight strikeouts. He and the rest of the Aces will meet No. 2 seeds and defending champions GSM Brewers in Game 1 of their best-of-three semis series tonight.

The other semis duel, featuring the top-ranked and unbeaten Chalan Kanoa Bears and Titanium, had its series opener last night and results were unavailable at press time.

CNMI Sharks vs Team Guahan

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI Sharks and Team Guahan players dive for the loose ball during the second half of their friendly game last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

CNMI Sharks and Team Guahan players are in a shotgun position after the latter go second down.

The CNMI Sharks' Derrick Rangamar, 5, avoids being tackled by a Team Guahan defender.

A Team Guahan player jumps to avoid hitting the CNMI Sharks' Derrick Rangamar.

The CNMI Sharks huddle.

A CNMI Sharks defender, right, helps walk a Team Guahan player back to the bench.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Guahan's Jon Mayo poses for a photo after lifting his squad to a 16-14 victory over the CNMI Sharks. Mayo scored two TDs in the match.

The CNMI Sharks' Alex Standish, right, gets a low-five from his teammate after scoring a touchdown.

CNMI Sharks players raise their helmet to recognize Team Guahan.

Mets rally past Rockies to avoid season sweep

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Sports

Walker wins marathon at PGA Championship

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Titanium ousts Falcons; Aces win

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Titanium's Brian Camacho lifts his left foot to create a torque before he hits the ball during the top of the first inning of Game 1 of their semis series against the Chalan Kanoa Bears in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League yesterday at the Francisco Tan "Ko" Palacios Ballfied.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Titanium took the last semis seat in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League after pulling off a 3-2 victory over the Falcons in their playoff game last Thursday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Titanium and the Falcons had a rubber match for the fourth and last Final Four berth after they and the BSI Aces finished the two-round robin regular season with similar 8-6 records. The Aces won the tiebreak via draw and got the third semis ticket, leaving Titanium and the Falcons to slug it out for the final ticket to the playoff round.

With their season on the line, Titanium and the Falcons had a nip-and-tuck game with the former clinging to a shaky 2-1 lead after six complete innings. Titanium recorded the precarious advantage, thanks to Jhace and Joe Palacios' RBI single each at the bottom of the second. The Falcons, on the other hand, got their first run from J.R. Suel off a Bradley Lieto sacrifice fly at the top of the fourth.

Titanium, after earning two runs in the second inning, went cold in the next four before a run from Joe Palacios off a Frankie Lieto wild pitch ended the drought and gave the eventual winners more cushion, 3-1, going into the

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260 join SSS-led summer camp

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

This year's summer camp that Saipan Soccer School facilitated through the Child Care Development Fund of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs drew the most participants since the inception of the annual program in 2013.

"We have 260 children participating in the camp and this is the biggest we have in three years that we are running the program," SSS staff and camp director Cristy Villaflor said.

The summer camp began last June 13 and will conclude with a sportsfest next week (Aug. 8 to 12) at the TSL Sports Complex. Participants are in the 6 to 15 age group and they are taught the basics of basketball, volleyball, futsal, and badminton.

"This week, we will introduce team building activities, such as movie day, obstacle course, and relay runs. Then in the sportsfest, we will have the four regular sports plus dodgeball, kickball, and running. Basically, all the activities in the camp and in the sportsfest encourage the kids to be active, socialize with other kids, and show sportsmanship and camaraderie

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A participant in the Saipan Soccer School-facilitated summer camp dribbles the ball, while other kids join the basketball drills at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex last Friday.

Ferrer, Libut top TRAC bike races

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Road bike champion JC Libut is flanked by runner-up Dencio Bautista, left, and Ernie Henzon during the awards ceremony for the TRAC Bridge Capital, LLC Summer Sporstfest held last Sunday in Marpi.

Veteran Bob Ferrer and JC Libut ruled the MTB and road bike races in TRAC Summer Sportsfest held last Sunday in Marpi.

Libut finished the 60K road bike course in 1:50:02, narrowly beating Dencio Bautista for the top spot as the latter completed the race just two seconds behind the former. Ernie Henzon rounded out the Top 3, beating Robert Tamondong in a down-to-the-wire finish at Mariana Resort, 1:50:05 to 1:50:06. Fifth placer Cesar Fortaleza came in at 1:50:08.

Other finishers in the 60K road bike race that brought riders to as far as Banzai Cliff and had participants doing the course three times were Willy Barbo (1:50:15), Jojo Valencia (1:50:22), Rommel Isidro (1:56:27), Romy Ampit (1:58:48), Alex Gozon (1:58:50), and Bobby Vargas (2:02:57).

In the 21K MTB event, Ferrer had a wider gap as he crossed the finish line at Mariana Resort at the 1:02:12 mark. He had a 24-second lead against Mark Isip, who secured the runner-up spot way ahead of Ding Ramos (1:06:04).

Six other bikers completed the 21K MTB course with Noel Valdisimo coming in at fourth with his 1:07:44 and followed by Noel Altamirano (1:14:57), Richard Asuncion (1:18:56), Floro Derexes (1:27:19), Jay Diyco (1:28:41), and Jomer En-

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